

Talking to patients about safe gun storage

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Safe gun storage / Primary care providers

ABSTRACT: A child is killed by accidental gunshot injuries every other day in the U.S., on average. And one Oregonian dies by suicide approximately every 23 hours. Safe gun storage practices could prevent these deaths, yet healthcare providers rarely talk to patients about whether guns in their homes are stored safely. The nonprofit Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership has teamed up with primary care providers and Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America to present a simple, nonjudgmental script to guide conversations with patients and their parents, in the case of pediatricians about safe firearm storage. We will teach the basics of safe firearm storage and we will address some common concerns about broaching a topic that can be divisive, political and emotional. In our poster and/or presentation, we'll show an array of low-cost options that are readily available for locking up guns, to prevent curiosity or impulse from ending in tragedy.

OBJECTIVE(S): Define safe firearm storage. Discuss safe gun storage with patients and their families in a way that is nonjudgmental, effective and efficient. Identify low-cost locks and safes that are readily available to prevent suicides and accidental shootings.

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