

HOW TO TALK


About **GUN STORAGE** Options


Firearm injury is a leading cause of death in the U.S., particularly among children, teens, and individuals in crisis.¹ As a trusted provider, you can play a vital role in preventing suicide, unintentional shootings, and other firearm-related harm by having respectful conversations about safe storage.


HOW TO APPROACH THE CONVERSATION


Colorado law **permits** clinicians to discuss and document firearm ownership or access. Research shows most gun owners support clinicians having these conversations when someone is at increased risk.²

Consider the following strategies to engage patients respectfully and effectively:

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Recognize the many reasons people own firearms such as hunting, sport, protection or tradition. Respecting these values builds trust and improves outcomes.³
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Using neutral, routine questions to ease into the topic has been shown to be effective.⁴ For example: "Many people keep guns in their homes. Is that something you do?"
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Frame the discussion around safety, wellness, and harm prevention. Recognizing firearm owners' strong commitment to safety can foster greater alignment.⁵
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Avoid terms like "restrict" or "confiscate." Instead, use phrases like "temporarily store," "hold for safekeeping," or "keep secure." These alternatives have been shown to reduce defensiveness.⁶

THE 5 L's METHOD CAN HELP ASSESS GUN SAFETY:

LOADED

Is the firearm stored unloaded?

LOCKED

Is it secured in a locked device?

LITTLE CHILDREN

Are children ever in the home?

LOW MOOD

Is anyone feeling depressed, anxious, or at risk?

LEARNED

Is the firearm user trained and cognitively capable?

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Fast facts: Firearm violence prevention. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

² Simonetti, J. A., Azrael, D., Zhang, W., & Miller, M. (2022). Perspectives on clinician-delivered firearm safety counseling during routine care. *Preventive Medicine*.

³ Betz, M. E., & Wintemute, G. J. (2015). Physician counseling on firearm safety: A new kind of cultural competence. *JAMA*.

⁴ Barber, C., Hemenway, D., & Miller, M. (2016). How physicians can reduce suicide - without changing anyone's mental health. *The American Journal of Medicine*.

⁵ Wolsko, C., Marino, E., & Keys, S. (2020). Affirming cultural values for health: The case of firearm restriction in suicide prevention. *Social Science & Medicine*.

⁶ Marino, E., Wolsko, C., Keys, S., & Wilcox, H. (2018). Addressing the cultural challenges of firearm restriction in suicide prevention. *Archives of Suicide Research*.

Safe Firearm STORAGE OPTIONS

There is a secure firearm storage option to match every household's needs, preferences, and routines.



FULL-SIZE GUN SAFE

Best for securing multiple firearms in one place. Safest when bolted to the wall or floor. Some models include biometric locks for quick access.



LOCK BOX

Passcode versions do not require batteries while biometric versions offer fast fingerprint access.



VEHICLE GUN SAFE

Firearms should ideally be stored at home. If vehicle storage is necessary, use a console or trunk safe that locks in place to deter theft and prevent child access.



GUN CASE

Suitable for temporary or transport use. It is recommended to add an external lock to reduce risk at home or while in transit.



CARGO AREA STORAGE

Designed for SUVs and trucks. Offers concealed, locked transport of firearms to and from the range or field.



TRIGGER LOCK OR CABLE LOCK

Both block the firearm's firing mechanism. While not theft-proof, they add a layer of protection, especially when paired with a safe.



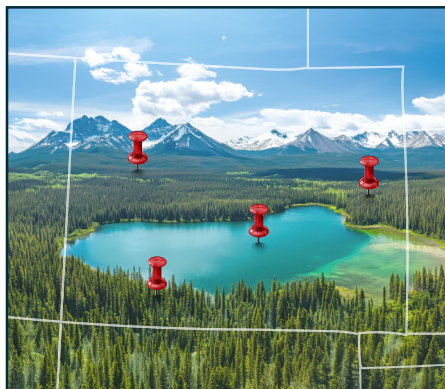
LIMIT ACCESS TO KEYS AND CODES

Store combinations and keys securely. Only share with trusted adults. Restricting access is a critical layer of firearm safety.



WIRELESS SAFE MONITOR

These devices alert you to unauthorized access, some through alarms, others through real-time smartphone alerts.



TEMPORARY OUT-OF-HOME STORAGE

During times of crisis, travel, or home renovation, consider temporary, off-site storage. This can help reduce risk and prevent tragedy.



Learn more about gun storage options and access the out-of-home storage map at LetsTalkGunsColorado.com/gun-owners/