



Guidelines for Brokers to Prevent Opioid Misuse and Diversion

Every day in North Carolina, approximately three people die due to opioid overdose. Nationally, the President's Economic Advisory Council estimated that the opioid epidemic cost our nation more than \$500 billion in 2015.

Brokers have an important role to play in confronting this crisis. Open houses have become a target because they present easy access for those who seek prescription drugs.

To prevent drug diversion during home showings and open houses, please review the below guidelines.

Before Open Houses or Showings:

- Talk to your clients about drug diversion and encourage them to safely dispose of addictive prescription painkillers. Suggest they take advantage of medicine drop box locations. Flushing these drugs down the toilet or throwing them away is not a good alternative to safe disposal. A list of locations can be found at ncdoj.gov/rxtakeback.
- Urge home sellers who need their prescription medication to secure any prescription drugs in locked containers or remove them from the house to a safe location the same way they would a wallet or a dangerous weapon.

During Open Houses or Showings:

- Consider bringing a colleague with you to your open house to have more eyes and ears.
- Ask open house attendees to provide identification or sign in.
- Keep your participants grouped together and in your sight.
- Keep your cell phone and keys on your person in case of emergency.
- Don't let potential buyers access a home without someone else present and advise your seller to do the same.
- If you suspect prescription theft, do not confront the suspect. Call the police.