



4LK Healthcare Gun Safety Protocol (Evidence-Based)

To prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths among children by incorporating gun safety counseling, education, and community advocacy into pediatric practice.

1. Background

- Firearm injuries are now the leading cause of death in children and adolescents in the U.S. (New England Journal of Medicine, 2022).
- 1 in 3 U.S. homes with children has a gun; 75% of these guns are stored unlocked (AAP, 2021).
- The risk of unintentional injury or death is 4x higher in homes with unlocked firearms.

2. Clinical Protocol

A. Screening (at Home Visits)

We will ask all families (confidentially and non-judgmentally):

- “Do you keep firearms in your home or vehicles?”
- If yes:
 - “Are they stored locked and unloaded?”
 - “Is the ammunition stored separately?”

B. Counseling

- Normalize the discussion:
 - “We ask all families this because firearm injuries are one of the top causes of harm in children.”
- Emphasize safe storage:
 - Locked
 - Unloaded
 - Ammunition stored separately
- Offer safety tips and written materials.

***Evidence: Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries
JAMA Published Online: February 9, 2005
2005;293;(6):707-714. doi:10.1001/jama.293.6.707***

C. Provide Safety Devices

If possible, distribute or refer families to:

- Free or discounted gun locks or lockboxes
- Local police or health department programs

3. Family Education Materials

- Provide handouts like:

- AAP Firearm Safety Guidelines
- Project ChildSafe materials
- 4LK-branded “Home Safety Checklist”

5. Community and Advocacy

- Advocate for:
 - Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws
 - Firearm Injury Prevention Programs in schools

Evidence: *The Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* [61\(2\):p 423-428, August 2006.](#) | DOI: 10.1097/01.ta.0000226396.51850.fc

Key Sources

- AAP Policy Statement (2023): “Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth”
- Grossman DC et al. (*JAMA*, 2006): “Effect of Gun Storage Counseling”
- Baxley F, Miller M (*Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*, 2006): “Parental Misperceptions About Children and Guns”
- Lois K. Lee, MD, MPH, FAAP et al. Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth. *Pediatrics* (2022)

Optional Workflow Template for EHR

Visit Type	Firearm Screening Asked?	Storage Safe?	Counseling Given?	Materials/Locks Provided	Follow-Up Needed?
Well Child	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No