

Dear Colleagues,

What can we do to help protect our patients, their families and our communities from firearm-related harms? We can recognize risk factors, and when present ask our patients about firearm safety. It's what we do all the time: we recognize risks to our patients, ask questions, and aim to help.

Please consider joining me and your ACP colleagues by pledging that, "When risk factors for harm to my patients or others are present, I will ask my patients about firearm ownership and safety."

You may do so at this link:

<https://acp1.poll daddy.com/s/commitment-to-help-reduce-firearm-related-injuries-deaths>

See the names of colleagues who have made the pledge at the "comments" tab to the left of a concise paper explaining why it's so important (or at "Jump to" on a smart phone).

(<http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2658284/what-you-can-do-stop-firearm-violence>)

And, you can learn to recognize risks and how to talk to patients in a recent, concise paper published in Annals: <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2522436/yes-you-can-physicians-patients-firearms>

We can do something. As physicians we must. Talking to our patients at risk for harming themselves or others about firearms is the right thing to do, it's legal, and supported by ACP's positions.

If we each take action when we encounter a patient at risk for harming her/himself or others, we might save a life or lives. What could be more important?

Thank you!