



FIREARM SAFETY & DEMENTIA:

DEMENTIA CAN AFFECT DECISION-MAKING AND AWARENESS.



Why It Matters:

An estimated **40–60% of people with Dementia** live in homes with firearms. As cognitive decline progresses, the risk of unintentional harm, suicide or aggression can increase.

The Role of Healthcare Providers:

You are in a unique position to help families make **safe, informed decisions** about firearm access. Just like driving, firearm use involves judgment, memory and coordination. All of which decline with dementia. You are also positioned to make referrals to organizations that distribute free cable locks and safes.

When to Talk About Firearms:

- ✓ During initial dementia diagnosis
- ✓ At routine cognitive screenings
- ✓ As part of safety planning

Conversations starters:

- “Does your loved use firearms for recreational purposes?”
- “Many families ask about safety issues as memory changes. Does your loved one have access to firearms?”
- “Have you thought about how you’ll handle firearm access as the condition progresses?”
- “Let’s talk about a plan before safety becomes a concern.”
- “A dementia diagnosis doesn’t necessarily mean firearms need to be removed from the home. It means it’s time to think about action steps such as gun locks and gun safes.”

Safe Storage Options:

- Gun cable locks
- Locked gun safes or cabinets
- Disabling firearms
- Temporary transfer to a trusted family member
- Permanent removal if risk is high
- Firearm Restraining Order

**Be proactive.
Be compassionate.
Help families make a plan
before a crisis happens.**