POINTERS FOR PARENTS

There are ways parents can help prevent their teens from abusing prescription drugs—a dangerous situation that happens more often than you might think. In fact, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, nearly one in five teens reports taking prescription medications to get high. A new national outreach program, called "Not Worth the Risk—Even if It’s Legal," sponsored by the National Council on Patient Information and Education, offers these tips: Lock your medicine cabinet or keep medicines that could potentially be abused in a less accessible place. Avoid stockpiling medicines. Keep track of how much is in each bottle or container in your medicine cabinet. And monitor your child's Internet usage. Watch for suspicious Web sites and e-mails that promote the abuse of prescription medicines. Finally, remember: Studies show you can cut the likelihood of a teen abusing drugs in half just by talking to your teen. For more information, call 1--800--6-6-2--HELP or visit the Web sites S-A-M-H-S-A--DOT--GOV or N-C-P-I-E--DOT--NET.