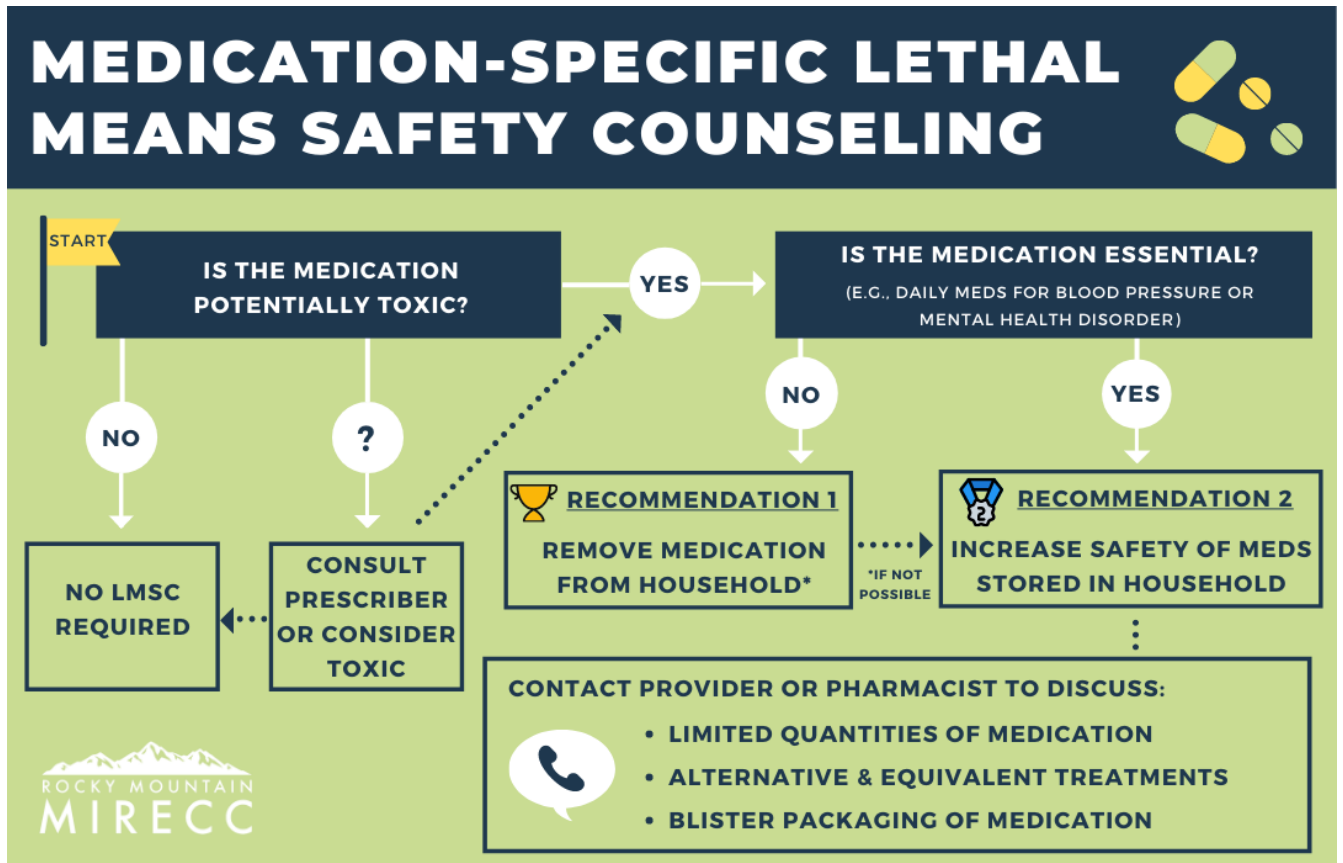


Medication-specific LMS

When providing LMSC, keep in mind that medications vary in their toxicity. Utilize this tool to guide your LMSC decisions.

Medication-specific LMSC flow chart




Caption to image: Utilize this tool to guide your medication-specific Lethal Means Safety Counseling decisions.


Medication-specific LMSC flow chart text details:

1. Is the medication potentially toxic?
 - a. No – no LMSC required.
 - b. Yes – continue.
 - c. Unsure – consult the prescribing provider or pharmacist, or consider it toxic.
2. Is the medication essential?
 - a. No. Examples of potentially non-essential medications include acetaminophen or ibuprofen for rare headaches.
 - i. **🏆 Recommendation #1:** Consider removing the medication from the household.*
 1. Dispose of medications using:
 - a. Disposal bins in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities or local pharmacies.

- b. VHA MedSAFE program provides free, federally-approved medication disposal envelopes for patients. [Link to reference](#)
- c. Medication disposal/destruction kits
- 2. Store them with a trusted family member, friend or fellow Veteran.^

*If not possible, proceed to Recommendation #2

ii.  **Recommendation #2:** Increase the safety of medications stored within the household.

- 1. Lock medications using a lockbox or other secure container. Consider asking a household member to change the number combination or hold on to the key and dispense the medication when needed.^
- b. Yes. Examples of essential medications include daily pills for blood pressure, mental health, or diabetes
 - i. Increase the safety of medication storage within the household.
 - 1.  Lock medications using a lockbox or other secure container. Consider asking a household member to change the number combination or hold on to the key, and dispense the medication when needed.^
 - 2. Consider reaching out to your patient's prescribing provider or pharmacist to discuss:
 - a. Limiting the prescribed and dispensed quantities of specific medications.
 - b. Alternative and equivalent treatments, if available.
 - c. Blister packaging of medications, if available.

^When recommending that a Veteran transfer his or her potentially-toxic medications to another individual, it is important to remember that they should not be transferred to other individuals who themselves are at risk of suicide or unintentional injury, or reside in households with those at risk of injury.