

WHY SHOULD I CALL THE POISON CENTER?

Poison centers are staffed by nurses, pharmacists, clinical toxicologists, and other nationally certified specialists. ***We provide expert advice in treating and managing poison exposures of all kinds.***

We also collect data, perform research, educate the public, and train healthcare professionals.

Nearly 20% of calls are from healthcare professionals seeking clinical advice in the treatment of their own patients. Studies show that patients managed with poison center consultation experience shorter hospitalizations (9.27% reduction in length of stay) and better outcomes.¹

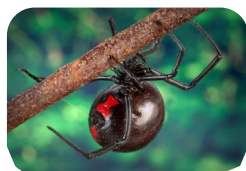
Poison centers save money and valuable healthcare resources. But they also save lives. Their experts provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based care for poisoned patients.

Three poison centers serve the Commonwealth. All can be reached by dialing **1-800-222-1222**. Calls are automatically routed to the correct center. Consultations are free and confidential. Your regional center can also supply you with prevention materials to share with patients and clients.



¹The Lewin Group Inc. Final Report on the Value of Poison Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries. Washington DC; 2017.

HOW CAN THE CENTER HELP HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS?



Information we provide:

- Physician consults.
- Overdose signs and symptoms.
- Drug interactions.
- Ranges of toxicity.
- Kinetics.
- Effects of toxins on pregnancy.
- Decontamination recommendations.
- Antivenin or other expensive antidote administration.
- Pill identification.
- Identification of chemicals that may be hazardous to first responders and providers.
- Toxicodrome identification.
- Advice during public health events or concerns (i.e., water supply contamination, recalls, bioterrorism attacks, etc.)
- Emerging substances of abuse expertise.
- Poison Centers are able to assist in determining medical clearance of psychiatric patients as defined by law.²

² Code of Virginia § 32.1-127: Criteria for Medical Assessment Prior to Admission to a Psychiatric Hospital, Inpatient Psychiatric or Crisis Stabilization Unit —ADULTS.



Poison Center experts are standing by 24 hours a day, every single day.

WHAT DOES HIPAA SAY ABOUT POISON CENTERS?

Poison centers fall under “covered entities” in the HIPAA Privacy Rule regulations. (45 CFR 164.501, 506(c)). Calls and patient information are kept confidential, and poison centers are held to the same HIPAA requirements by which other health care providers abide.

WHY DOES THE CENTER CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MY PATIENTS?

A medical record is created for every call. If a caller is admitted or referred to a healthcare facility, our professionals follow that patient through their transport, emergency dept. visit, and/or hospitalization to collect updates in the patient’s history, lab values, or condition; offer any new treatment recommendations; and document outcomes. We will follow the patient until discharged or until the case is closed. All information is kept confidential.

DID YOU KNOW?

Poisoning is a leading cause of injury deaths and injury hospitalizations. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more people die from poisoning than from car accidents.

Half of calls are about children under age 6, but that age group accounts for only a small percentage of deaths. **Adults—not children—are at greater risk of poisoning death.**

The number one source of poisoning for all ages is medicine: prescription, over-the-counter, or supplements. Other leading sources of poisoning include cleaning products, pesticides, cosmetic and personal care products, plants, substances of abuse, and alcohol.

Common medicine mistakes reported to poison centers include:



- ◇ Taking the wrong product.
- ◇ Taking the same medicine twice (“double dosing”)
- ◇ Taking more than one product with the same active ingredient.

More than 3/4 of poison exposures are **unintentional**.

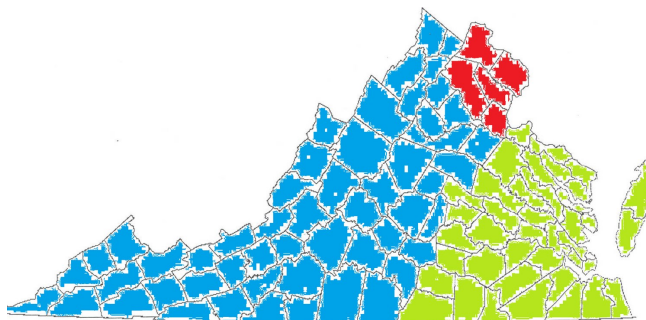
Some medications, including some diabetes and heart medications, could be **deadly to a young child in only one dose**.

Poison center experts are always happy to hear from you, **even if you just have a question** about poisons or poison safety.

WHY SHOULD I RECOMMEND MY PATIENTS CALL THE POISON CENTER?

More than 80% of the time, callers are able to treat their exposure on site with poison center guidance, avoiding a costly visit to a health care facility. In fact, poison center consultation prevents an estimated 84,000 emergency department visits annually in the U.S., for a savings of \$81 million.¹

Services are confidential, free, and available 24/7/365. Interpreters are available in over 300 languages.



Contact your regional poison center for free materials or to discuss public and professional education programs.



BLUE RIDGE POISON CENTER

Southwest VA, the Shenandoah Valley, & Central VA
800-222-1222
www.brpc.virginia.edu



NATIONAL CAPITAL POISON CENTER

Washington D.C., Northern VA, Southern MD
800-222-1222
www.poison.org



VIRGINIA POISON CENTER

Greater Richmond, Southside, Northern Neck, Tidewater
800-222-1222
www.vapoison.org

Virginia's Poison Centers and Health Care Professionals:

Partners in Prevention and Treatment



POISON
Help

1-800-222-1222