



# Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

October 2022



*Did you know .....*

On October 11, America's Poison Centers revealed a new Poison Helpline logo, shown above. This new logo will be used by the 55 poison centers across the U.S. and allows quick recognition as the source of help for all poison related emergencies.

Poison centers provide free, confidential, and expert medical advice via the Poison Helpline: 1-800-222-1222. IPCC calls are answered by specially trained nurses and pharmacists who are nationally certified in poison information. Board certified medical toxicologists are available 24/7 for consultation.

The IPCC will be transitioning its website and social media graphics to this new logo shortly and poison prevention materials with the new Poison Help logo will be available for free by ordering through our website [Bulk Order Material | Iowa Poison Control Center](#)



## National Poison Data System

The Iowa Poison Control Center is part of a national network of 55 poison control centers (PCC) across the United States and U.S. territories. We provide 24/7 poison information and treatment advice for the public and health care providers regarding poisonings or toxic exposures to household products, drugs (prescription, over-the-counter, herbal, illegal/recreational or veterinary), chemicals at home or work, plants and mushrooms, bites and stings, environmental toxins, food poisoning and more.

PCCs also gather information that is entered into a national database known as the National Poison Data System (NPDS). This is one of the few operational systems of its kind. NPDS is the largest and most frequently published data registry of poison related exposures in the U.S.

Each PCC submits deidentified case data to NPDS in near real time and is stored in a secure location. There are more than 74 million case records with data uploaded every 8 minutes. This allows for real-time surveillance for identifying incidents of public health surveillance and generating system alerts on adverse drug events, emerging drugs of abuse, contaminated food, product recalls, and other products and substances of public health interest.

When the Iowa PCC receives a call, a new case is opened and information is obtained regarding exposure, patient condition, gender, age and location. We also gather data regarding recommended treatments and their effectiveness. Follow-up calls are performed to gather additional information, update treatment recommendations and provide ongoing advice should circumstances or conditions change. The NPDS system maintains a comprehensive data set due to PCC's follow-up calls to monitor case progress and medical outcome.

While cases are reported to PCCs on a voluntary basis, we strongly encourage you to call the IPCC with all poisoning exposures and overdoses as this will enhance the scope and accuracy of the collected data for public health surveillance at the local, state and national level.

You are an active partner in this process and we appreciate your help.

*Thomas Esslinger RN, CSPI  
Certified Specialist in Poison Information*



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