

Poison Prevention Press

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MPC Poison Safety Info On-the-Go

Get important poison safety tips and other information wherever you are.

- News and current trends
- First aid for poisonings
- Seasonal poison info
- Educational materials

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Did you know that...

- In 2017, 89% of calls to the MPC from the public were managed safely at home?
- In 2017, 31% of calls to the MPC were made by a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or paramedic seeking treatment advice relating to a poisoning or overdose?

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Making the Right Call

Knowing who to call is the critical first step in helping someone in need of assistance. Growing up, we are taught to call 911 in an emergency. But, what can we do if the situation is serious, but not exactly an emergency? The information below will help you make the right call.

Call 911	Call the Poison Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to wake the victim • Not breathing or having trouble breathing • Difficulty swallowing or is drooling • Swelling of lips, tongue, or face • Seizures • Trouble talking or walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine mistakes • Mistakes with personal care or household products • Bites and stings • Plants, berries, and mushrooms • Substance abuse • Food poisoning
Call your doctor	Call your pharmacist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason for taking a medicine • Stopping and starting medicines • Routine medical care (colds, flu, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic alternatives • Drug interactions • Special instructions when taking medicines

Life-threatening situations require a call to 911. This will get trained medical help to the person right away.

Poison centers are staffed by specially trained pharmacists and nurses. They can be reached any time, day or night, by dialing 1-800-222-1222 anywhere in the U.S. Many times, the situation can be managed safely at home. But if, medical attention is needed, poison specialists will determine the best method of transportation and will notify the hospital that the patient is coming.

Sometimes, the right call is to the person who prescribed or dispensed the medicine. They know your medical history best. They will be able to answer questions about medicines as they apply to you in particular.

Hopefully this information will help you make the right call when you need assistance. But, know that the only wrong call is the call you don't make. You should never wait and see what happens or rely on information you find on the internet. Poison centers, 911, doctors, and pharmacists are there to help.