

# KPP *Klinical Update*

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Treating Ingested Poisons

In the United States there are more than two million poisonings reported each year to the 61 poison control centers located across the country. Around 90% of the incidents occur in the home. The vast majority of the poisoning victims are children; however, most fatal cases involve adults. Most cases are unintentional (71%) and involve a single poison (92%). Three fourths of the cases are resolved at home with assistance from the poison control center while only a fraction require hospitalizations (3%).

Of those instances which cause death, most are intentional poisonings involving analgesics, antidepressants, sedatives, stimulants, "street drugs", alcohol, baby oil, drain cleaners, or other household products. The unintentional poisoning mortality rate is 10.5% while intentional exposures, as expected, rank higher (79%).



The death rate of unintentional poisonings has decreased over the years due to many factors, including: child proof caps, the reformulation of dangerous products, and better understanding by the general public regarding the possible harm from household products. Most importantly, however, has been the development of product specific information and how to treat exposures. All of this information is kept at poison control centers and makes them the most important tool in the treatment of in home poisonings. Due to this, experts recommend that the first thing you should do when discovering a situation which might involve a poison of any kind is to call the National Poison Control Center Hotline. They will instruct you on how to treat the situation (see below).

### Kroger Prescription Plans

1014 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

1-800-917-4926

[www.kpp-rx.com](http://www.kpp-rx.com)



**American Association of  
Poison Control Centers**



**Poison Exposure?  
Call Your Poison Center  
at 1-800-222-1222.  
Free, Professional, 24/7/365  
Don't Guess, Be Sure...**

### Did You Know?

The use of ipecac is only recommended in 0.03% of cases involving poison control centers. There is no scientific evidence that ipecac significantly reduces systemic absorption or toxicity. Activated charcoal is much more effective and can be purchased at your local Kroger Pharmacy.