

Module 2

About U.S. Poison Centers & The Georgia Poison Center

Objective: To learn about the history and role of U.S. Poison Centers and specifics about the Georgia Poison Center.



Module 2

Unit 1: History of Poison Control Centers



Module 2

Unit 1: U.S. Poison Control Centers

- Front-line responders to poison emergencies
- Leaders in poison prevention activities
- Provide cost-effective poison emergency treatment advice



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Unit 1: U.S. Poison Control Centers

- First poison control center was established in Illinois more than 65 years ago
- During the 1970s and 1980s a move was made to consolidate and regionalize poison control centers
 - The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) became the governing body of poison control centers
- Since 1983, the AAPCC has been compiling data in the Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS), now known as the National Poison Data System (NPDS), in cooperation with US poison control centers
 - The data is used to quickly identify hazards, improve prevention efforts, and guide clinical research and direct training



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Unit 1: U.S. Poison Centers

- **Poison control centers provide free**, timely diagnosis and treatment advice to callers
- **More than 65%** of the poisonings handled by poison control centers are managed safely at home through telephone consultation with highly trained staff
- These consultations eliminate unnecessary laboratory tests, ambulance transports, and visits to emergency rooms and physician offices



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Unit 2: American Association of Poison Control Centers



Module 2
Unit 2: American Association of Poison Control Centers

- **Supports the nation's 55 poison control centers**
- Poison control centers offer free, confidential medical advice **24 hours a day, seven days a week**

1-800-222-1222

- **Mission**
 - To actively advance the health care role and public health mission of our members through information, advocacy, education and research



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Unit 2: American Association of Poison Control Centers

AAPCC at a glance:

1. Accreditation/Certification
2. Partnerships
3. Advocacy and Government Affairs
4. Professional Development
5. Communication/Public Education
6. Data Services



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Unit 2: American Association of Poison Control Centers

Essential Functions of AAPCC Accreditation

1. Call Center Communications & Infrastructure
2. Call Center Staffing
3. Patient Management
4. Quality Management
5. Public Education
6. Health Care Provider Education
7. Data and Surveillance
8. Leadership and Management



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Unit 3: The Poison Helpline



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Unit 3: The Poison Helpline

- 2000: Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act (PL 106-174)
 - Ensures every U.S. resident has access to a certified regional poison control center
- 2002: Introduction of a new poison emergency national toll-free helpline
 - Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



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Unit 3: The Poison Helpline

- The toll-free poison helpline connects you to your local poison control center
- **You will speak with a professionally trained nurse, pharmacist, doctor or other health care professional**



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Unit 3: The Poison Helpline

- You can call from anywhere in the U.S.
- The call is free and confidential
- Translation services are available
- Help over the phone
- Learn about your risks before an emergency



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Unit 3: The Poison Helpline

Poison Helpline:
1-800-222-1222

Save the number
as a contact in
your phone!



Module 2
Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center



Module 2
Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- 1970: The Georgia Poison Center (GPC) has been in operation for **treatment advice for human and animal poisonings**
- 1976: The GPC was designated the official state poison control center
- Has evolved into one of the busiest and most up-to-date centers
- The GPC is one of the 55 centers nationwide
 - The only center in Georgia
- Accredited as a Regional Poison Center by the AAPCC



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Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- Housed at Grady Health System
- **Provide free, timely advice and information to anyone**
- Staffed with physicians, toxicologists, nurses, pharmacists, health educators and computer specialists



Module 2
Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- The mission of the GPC is to provide high quality poison control center services to healthcare professionals and residents of Georgia.
- It is our goal:
 - To ensure the provision of prompt and accurate poison information to those who utilize our service
 - To ensure the education of residents of Georgia in the areas of poison prevention
 - To ensure the education of healthcare professionals in the areas of clinical toxicology, poisoning epidemiology, poison prevention, toxicological diagnosis and care
 - To ensure stable and continuous delivery of quality poison control center services to Georgians



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Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- Each year the GPC provides services to thousands of Georgians; these services include:
 - Rabies treatment information service
 - Professional education
 - Research and data collection
 - Public education
 - Poison emergency telephone service



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Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- The GPC receives a variety of poisoning-related calls; which include:
 - Ingestions of poisonous substances
 - Drug overdoses
 - Chemical exposures at work
 - Pet poisonings
 - Plant poisonings
 - Food poisonings
 - Animal, snake and spider bites



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Unit 4: The Georgia Poison Center

- When you call the GPC in a poisoning emergency, you will be asked to give:
 - Your name, phone number, county, and zip code
 - The patient's name, age and weight
 - The name of the substance or potential poison
 - The amount of the substance or potential poison
 - The time the potential poisoning happened
 - Any symptoms the patient has
 - Any current health problems the patient may have
 - Any medicines the patient is currently taking
 - If possible, take the potential poison or the container to the phone with you. You may be asked to describe the potential poison or give information from any labels on the container


