



# THE GEORGIA POISON CENTER

Since 1970, the Georgia Poison Center (GPC) has operated the 24-hour poison emergency treatment information service providing assistance and expertise in the medical diagnosis and management of human and animal poisonings.

## *Our Mission*

The GPC is committed to providing high quality poison center services to health care 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.
- Education of residents of Georgia in the areas of poisoning prevention and first-aid.
- Education of health care professionals in the areas of toxicology, poisoning epidemiology, poison prevention, toxicologic diagnosis and care.
- Stable and continuous delivery of quality poison center services to Georgians.

The Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) designated the GPC as the official state poison center in 1976, providing primary funding for the Center's nonprofit operation. The GPC is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and is the only poison center in Georgia. The Center is a part of the Grady Health System and operates under the medical supervision of the Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine.

## *Our Services*

The GPC offers a continuum of services to the residents of Georgia.

These services include:

- Poison emergency telephone service
- Rabies treatment information service
- Professional education
- Public Education
- Research and data collection



## *Rabies Treatment Information Service*

The GPC is the official statewide resource for treatment advice and prevention information regarding rabies and animal bites. This service is being provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

## *Poison Information Telephone Service*

The GPC operates the 24-hour emergency telephone information service, providing safe and effective treatment advice for human and animal poisonings. In addition, most questions about the safe use, storage and disposal of potentially dangerous substances can be answered. The emergency telephone information service is accessible throughout Georgia, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, through a national toll-free hotline. The Center provides a teletype for the deaf and hearing impaired (TDD) and has access to translators for more than 140 languages through the Language Line®. The 24-hour phone lines are answered by highly trained Specialist in Poison Information (SPIs), mostly Registered Nurses and Pharmacists, and Poison Information Providers (PIPs). In addition, board certified medical toxicologists are on call 24-hours a day.

IN A POISONING  
EMERGENCY, CALL  
24-HOURS A DAY,  
7 DAYS A WEEK:  
1-800-222-1222  
Teletype for the  
deaf and hearing  
Impaired only:  
TDD 404-616-9287



## *Our Calls*

The GPC receives a variety of poisoning-related calls including:

- Ingestion of poisonous substances
- Drug Overdoses
- Chemical exposures at work
- Pet poisonings
- Plant poisonings
- Food poisonings
- Animal, snake and insect bites

## *Professional Education*

The GPC is a training site for health care professionals including Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Residents from Emory and Morehouse Universities, Environmental and Occupational Medicine (EOM) residents from Emory University, and pharmacy students from the University of Georgia, Mercer University, South University and Creighton University.

## *Research and Data Collection*

The GPC is involved in a number of research projects involving the epidemiology, diagnosis, management and prevention of poisonings. The GPC is able to manage calls by utilizing state-of-the art computer technology. All data is stored electronically in a special computer program written for the Poison Center. This data is used to analyze and monitor poisoning trends and facilitates the development of poison prevention and awareness strategies.

## *Public Education*

The Education Department works diligently to develop and implement innovative strategies to prevent poisonings and raise awareness of the Georgia Poison Center and its services. The GPC offers a variety of public education materials and resources including brochures, emergency phone stickers, posters, and community-based Poison Prevention Instructor Training Program (ITP).



Certified as a Regional  
Poison Center by the  
American Association of  
Poison Control Centers.

## *The Georgia Poison Center*

The Georgia Poison Center is your Poison Center, providing free, life-saving diagnosis and treatment advice. Over 80% of the poisoning calls handled by the GPC can be managed safely and effectively at home. This in turn, eliminates unnecessary emergency room visits and medical expenses. Research suggests that the average consultation with a poison center costs about \$27, preventing an average of \$190 in other medical costs. If all Americans had access to a poison center, an addition \$545 million in medical costs would be saved each year.

In order to continue providing this life-saving service, the GPC needs your support. Your contribution will help to assure that the Center will be there when you need it.

To make a contribution to the GPC, send check or money order to:

### **Georgia Poison Center**

Grady Health System

80 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE, PO Box 26066

Atlanta, GA 30303-3050

**To order educational material, call the Education Department at 404.616.9235 or visit our website at [www.georgiapoisoncenter.org](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org)**