

A Day in the Life of Your Poison Center

Cincinnati Children's Drug & Poison Information Center

Have you ever wondered why someone would call a Poison Center? Or what kinds of calls would a Poison Center handle? Below is a snapshot of 'A Day in the Life of Your Poison Center'. It captures the various scenarios of calls that a Poison Center may manage on any given day. The scenarios are a brief snapshot of how a call to the Poison Center may begin.

Many calls, especially those originating from healthcare facilities, involve in depth consultations with the Poison Center Specialists. Calls may take anywhere from a few minutes to 30 minutes or more in length for critical situations. Specialists provide very specific treatment advice including antidote administration and dosing, supportive care recommendations, observation recommendations including length of observation, monitoring criteria and answer specific questions healthcare providers may have about a drug or poison. Poison Specialists have access to databases that enable them to find ingredient information on consumer products to help manage poisoning cases. Medical Toxicologists are also consulted on some cases.

Calls originating from the public are also managed by Poison Center staff and because of the training and expertise of the staff, the majority of these exposures can be safely managed outside of a healthcare facility. This expertise saves millions of dollars in unnecessary healthcare costs each year.

Call Log

A Day in the Life of Your Poison Center

Midnight to 7:00am

An ER called about a 14 year old who took 15 fluoxetine in a suicide attempt

A 4 year old swallowed the toothpaste off of his toothbrush

An ER called about a 44 year old took 7 Flexeril in a suicide attempt

An ER called about a 14 year old who took a handful of ibuprofen in a suicide attempt

An ER called about a 20 year old who ingested a mouthful of Fabuloso All Purpose cleaner in a suicide attempt

An ER called about a 16 year old who ingested 20 to 25 tablets of her Xanax in a suicide attempt

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as clonazepam

An ER called about a 38 year old who ingested 3 extra tablets of her seizure medication, Oxtellar XR

A long term care facility called about a 97 year old who was given 24 units of Lantus instead of 8 units



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A 19 year old accidentally rinsed her mouth with aftershave instead of mouthwash

A Pharmacist called for information on drug interactions between Zalepon and Cymbalta

An ER called about a 19 year old who ingested 44 benadryl tablets and 5 ibuprofen tablets in a suicide gesture

A 4 year old received 1 tablespoon of Children's Tylenol instead of 1 teaspoon

An ER called about a 13 year old who ingested her grandmother's medication including hydrochlorothiazide, acyclovir, Protonix and loratadine in a suicide attempt

A 40 year old accidentally cooked stew with the absorbent pad under the stew meat in the meal

A 21 year old took ibuprofen and experienced stomach pain, lethargy and blood in his urine

An ER called about a 61 year old who took 20 Topamax in a suicide attempt

7:00am to 9:00am

A 2 year old ingested The Works toilet bowl cleaner

A 47 year old took a double dose of her Advair inhaler

A 21 month old ate 5 Extra Strength Tums Smoothies

A 44 year old took Nabumetone and Meloxicam instead of just Meloxicam

A 26 year old states his apartment has mold in it and is making his family sick

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Lortab

An ER called about a 16 year old who made a smoothie with cherries and may have ingested the pits

9:00am to 10:00am

An ER called about a 23 year old who took 18 Zoloft in a suicide attempt

A 2 year old ingested 12 Disney Complete Multivitamin Gummies

An ER called about a 71 year old who took a double dose of his Propranolol

A 59 year old inhaled ashes from the fireplace

10:00am to 11:00am

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Tylenol

An ER called about a 77 year old who intentionally took 20 omeprazole

A 19 month old drank the liquid out of the Airwick Plug In

A 14 month old bit into a Cascade Action Pack

An ER called about a 48 year old heroin addict in withdrawal who took a handful of Benadryl

A 2 year old drank target brand hand sanitizer

A 13 month old drank Lysol No Mess Toilet Bowl Cleaner

A 2 year old ingested superglue

An 85 year old patient with dementia squirted hand sanitizer in her mouth

11:00am to 12:00pm

A 9 month old ingested a taste of Cascade complete

An 89 year old was concerned about food poisoning after eating ribs

A 76 year old accidentally rubbed Bengay in her eye

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as furosemide

Caller asked to identify two medications; identified as furosemide and trazodone

A police officer called to identify a medication; identified as Xanax

A 10 year old ingested ink

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as acetaminophen

A 56 year old accidentally rinsed her mouth with isopropyl alcohol

12:00pm to 1:00pm

A 72 year old calling because her blood pressure is elevated

An ER called about a 35 year old who took 10 amitriptyline

A 35 year old accidentally ingested suave hair conditioner that had been spilled on a toothbrush

A 21 month old dumped Gain laundry detergent out on hands and put his hands in his mouth

1:00pm to 2:00pm

A 17 month old ingested dog feces



A police officer called to identify two medications; identified as tramadol and omeprazole

An ER called about a 58 year old who was at work at a factory and an unknown powder accidentally got into his eye

A 3 year old ingested a bottle of Children's Tylenol

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as methadone

2:00pm to 3:00pm

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as clonidine

Caller requesting Poison Control phone stickers and magnets

A 57 year old accidentally ingested some of the liquid from a Wallflower

A 3 year old's brother put fish food into her milk and she drank it

An 11 month old got into Grandma's purse and swallowed a Lisinopril / hydrochlorothiazide pill

An ER calling about a 17 year old who ingested 25 Ambien in a suicide attempt

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as metoprolol

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as buspirone

An ER calling about a 16 year old who ingested 10 zantac in a suicide attempt

A Police officer calling to ask what schedule valium is

An 18 month old ingested a B12 vitamin

A 72 year old accidentally took 2 of her B1 vitamins

3:00pm to 4:00pm

An ER calling on a 23 year old who took 24 Advil, 14 Benadryl, 14 Propranolol, 7 Trazodone and 6 Klonopin in a suicide attempt

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as omeprazole

A Dog ate a tablet of garcinia cambogia

A 2 year old ingested Desitin diaper rash cream

A 2 year old ingested Listerine zero mouthwash

A 3 year old ingested a red berry from the backyard

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Percocet

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Vyvanse

4:00pm to 5:00pm

An ER calling about a 16 year old who had been taking Phenergan and has EKG changes

An 88 year old calling to ask about drug interactions between Benadryl and alprazolam

An ER calling on a 17 year old who took 10 trazodone in a suicide attempt

A 4 year old was given a double dose of his ear drops for 4 days

A 2 year old ingested a mouthful of Walgreens toothache relief medicine

An 8 month old bit into a stress ball and ingested some of the liquid

A 13 month old ingested a mouthful of Pinxav

A 16 month old ingested a mouthful of foaming bathroom cleaner with bleach

An ER calling about a 39 year old who was sprayed in the face with Freon while at work

An ER calling on a 16 year old who took 10 Zantac in a suicide attempt

An ER calling on a 38 year old who took an unknown amount of venlafaxine in a suicide attempt

An ER calling on an 18 year old who took 5 Prozac in a suicide attempt

5:00pm to 6:00pm

A 2 year old ingested shampoo and vomited

A 2 year old smeared Blistex deep renewal chapstick on herself and tasted some of it

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Norco

A 30 year old male was gardening and was bitten on the top of his foot by a snake

An ER calling on a 51 year old who ingested Ativan and Ambien in a suicide attempt

A Dog licked the Drydex spackling from a hole in the wall

A 37 year old was concerned the scotch he drank was contaminated

A 4 year old ingested 20 gummy vitamins

An ER calling about a 26 year old who ingested 15 Klonopin in a suicide attempt

An ER calling about a 15 year old who ingested Adderall XR and caffeine and had chest pain

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Xanax



6:00pm to 7:00pm

A Puppy ingested chlorthalidone and athlete's foot cream

A 20 year old accidentally inhaled gasoline fumes

An ER calling on a 2 year old who ingested Anbesol

A 17 month old ingested some fish food flakes

A Dog ingested some Drydex spackling

A 3 year old got into mom's purse and ingested Vistaril

An ER calling about an adult patient with an MS Contin overdose and questioned how to best titrate naloxone

Caller asked to identify two medications; identified as meloxicam and lorazepam

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as acetaminophen

7:00pm to 8:00pm

A 2 year old ingested Bath and Body Works hand sanitizer

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified Zofran

A 2 year old ingested 3 milliliters of vape solution with nicotine

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified Midol

An ER calling on 18 year old who ingested 2 Geodon in a suicide attempt

An adult drank an entire bottle of Nyquil for an unknown reason

A 3 year old ingested one Paxil

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Norco

A 4 year old autistic child ingested 20 tums

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as sucralfate

A 10 month old ingested hand sanitizer

8:00pm to 9:00pm

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as Percocet

A 2 year old ingested infant gas drops

An 11 year old ingested 15 calcium / vitamin D gummy drops
A 56 year old mistakenly took 6000mg of Tylenol per day for 4 days
A 12 month old ingested a sip of isopropyl alcohol
A 6 year old ingested 4 ounces of Tylenol and 2 ounces of Sudafed
A 67 year old accidentally took a double dose of Tylenol Arthritis
A 30 year old accidentally took his Xarelto twice today
A 7 year old ate 18 Spongebob gummy vitamins thinking they were candy
A 51 year old accidentally took his Prozac, Lisinopril and atorvastatin medications twice this evening within 20 minutes of each other
A dog chewed on and swallowed parts of a light bulb
A 2 year old ingested some gain with febreze laundry detergent
A 3 year old was given Delsym by both her mother and her father
Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as clonazepam
A 2 year old ingested 2 Excedrin

9:00pm to 10:00pm

A 30 year old had a carbon monoxide detector go off in his home
A 2 year old ingested part of an unsmoked cigarette
A 15 month old was accidentally given a double dose of Tylenol
A 65 year old took 80 units of Novolog instead of her Lantus
A 6 year old was given 10ml instead of 5ml of of Delsym
A 70 year old accidentally took 100 units of Lantus instead of 50 units
An ER calling about a 42 year old male who ingested a double dose of Lisinopril/ HCTZ and alcohol

10:00pm to 11:00pm

A 2 year old ingested white vinegar
A 14 month old ingested an unknown amount of cetirizine
A 32 year old ingested Carbatrol and vomited

A pregnant 31 year old took a double dose of amoxicillin

A 72 year old accidentally took 20 units of Humalog instead of 6 units

A 15 month old has been vomiting and parents are concerned about food poisoning

Caller asked to identify a medication; identified as gabapentin

11:00pm to 12:00am

A 30 year old ingested a bottle of Tussin DM to get high

An ER calling on a 16 year old who ingested a handful of Elavil in a suicide attempt

In addition to the above calls, Poison Center staff managed 24 call backs from healthcare professionals and the lay public with additional questions on cases previously called in to the Poison Center that day. Poison Center specialists also completed 92 follow up calls to healthcare facilities and the public on ongoing, active cases.

The Poison Center is staffed 24/7/365 by Medical Toxicologists, Clinical Toxicologists, Nurses, Pharmacists, Paramedics, EMT's and other Allied Health Professionals. Anyone can call the Poison Center for help, whether you are a parent or calling about yourself or you are a Healthcare Professional. The Poison Center is available 24/7/365 to help you!