

National Poison Prevention Week

Poison Prevention Week 2008 is March 16-22. The Maryland Poison Center hopes that health care providers and educators will take this opportunity to encourage the public to take steps to prevent poisonings. Young children are at the greatest risk for a poisoning exposure. In 2006, 61 U.S. poison centers reported more than 2.4 million cases, 50.9% of which involved children less than 6 years old. Many childhood poisonings can be prevented. Research by the Home Safety Council in 2006 shows that caregivers admit leaving medicines in unsecured locations in more than 80 percent of homes with young children, and more than 50 percent report leaving dangerous household chemicals accessible to children.

Adults are also at risk of being poisoned, especially older adults. Taking many medications results in confusion and mistakes in how they take their medicines. Misuse of household products such as cleaners and insecticides also leads to poisoning exposures. Every household, school and workplace should have the emergency number for the poison center readily available. Immediate access to a poison center results in 73% of cases being handled at home with advice from poison specialists.

How can you help promote National Poison Prevention Week?

- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets, Mr. Yuk stickers, and telephone stickers and magnets.
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons, poison prevention, or Mr. Yuk.
- Give poison prevention presentations to local schoolchildren and community groups.
- Give poison prevention kits to patients, customers and students.
- Collect and discard expired medicines.
- Make sure that every phone at your workplace has a poison center telephone sticker on it.

Order your materials *by March 3rd* to make sure you have them in time for Poison Prevention Week! Download an order form from our website: www.mdpoison.com .

Any questions? Contact Angel Bivens at 410-563-5584 or abivens@rx.umaryland.edu .

DID YOU KNOW THAT... there are limited supplies of Digibind® and DigiFab® currently available?

Digoxin Immune Fab (ovine) products are used to treat life-threatening digoxin toxicity. Digibind® and DigiFab® may be in short supply due to an increase in orders in the latter part of 2007. The manufacturers expect the situation to improve within weeks. If you need assistance in locating Digoxin Immune Fab (ovine) products, call the Maryland Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.



Post and share this edition of **toxtidbits** with your colleagues. Send any comments or questions to: **toxtidbits**, 410.706.7184 (fax) or Lbooze@rx.umaryland.edu.

If you do not wish to receive faxes or emails from the Maryland Poison Center, call 410.706.7604 or circle your fax number and fax this back to 410.706.7184. Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Read past issues of **toxtidbits** at www.mdpoison.com