

CARING FOR AN OLDER GENERATION: How to Prevent Medication Poisonings



A Typical Call To The Poison Center From An Older Adult May Include:

... I am on heart medication and I just took a cold medicine, will that hurt me?

... I think I took my medicines twice this afternoon ... I am not sure. Can you help me?

... I left some bleach in a cup on the counter, when I went to answer the telephone. My husband thought it was water and drank it. What should I do?

... My grandchild just ate one of my blood pressure pills. Are they poisonous?

... My cat just took a bite from one of my houseplants, is that a problem?

... My neighbor gave me mushrooms that he picked in his yard for us to eat, are they safe?



How Can You Prevent Poisonings?

Store all cleaners and chemicals in the containers they came in.

Never put cleaners or chemicals in food containers.

Install a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor to keep your home safe.

Never treat your pet with medicines that are intended for humans without talking to your veterinarian.

Never use another person's medication.

When you get a new prescription, ask your physician or pharmacist if it will interact with other medicines you are already taking, including any over-the-counter medications, as well as any nutritional supplements (*herbal/home remedies and/or vitamins*) that are being used.

Chart when medications are taken to prevent confusion.

IN A POISON EMERGENCY, or for more information, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, call: 1.800.222.1222

The services of the West Virginia Poison Center are provided free of charge to all citizens of West Virginia via toll-free telephone lines, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.



1-800-222-1222

Visit our website...

<http://www.wvpoisoncenter.org>