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CDC Public Health Resources for Chemical Exposures

Recent media reports discussing the potential use of chemical agents in the United States may have raised questions among clinicians and public health professionals about the risks of exposure to a number of chemical hazards. In an effort to assist in addressing these questions, CDC would like to remind public health partners of resources to assist in preparing for and responding to chemical exposures in community and clinical settings.

CDC Online Resources

CDC provides resources for clinicians and public health professionals seeking advice and guidance about exposure routes, signs and symptoms, case definitions, or treatment protocols for a wide range of potential chemical hazards currently in the news, such as botulism (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/botulism>), cyanide (<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/cyanide>), sulfur mustard (<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/sulfurmustard>), and ricin (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin>).

CDC Expert Emergency Consultation

In an emergency, clinicians and public health professionals can reach CDC experts in chemical exposure and medical toxicology at 770-488-7100. This service is available through a 24/7 Emergency Operations Center to assist local, state, and federal agencies. CDC can assist healthcare professionals with questions about emergency patient care.

Poisoning Specialists at the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC member poison centers provide expertise and treatment advice for poisonings, including those involving chemical hazards, at 1-800-222-1222. Poison control centers are staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and poison information providers who are toxicology specialists. Through the AAPCC's national help line, poison control centers provide immediate poison exposure management instructions.

Additional emergency resources for natural, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards can be found at emergency.cdc.gov