

# WHAT TO DO IN A POISON EMERGENCY

In Case of a poison emergency call the Kentucky Regional Poison Center of Kosair Children's Hospital. Here is what to expect when you call.

First and foremost, remain calm. If the patient is upset, please do your best to comfort him or her. If the patient is unconscious, having convulsions or is having difficulty breathing call 9-1-1. Otherwise call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222. Each nurse who answers your phone call is specially trained in toxicology. He or she will ask specific questions about the victim such as;

- How the victim is feeling or acting right now.
- Age and weight of the person.
- The name/description of the medicine, product or plant.
- The amount taken.
- When it happened.

## EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR POISONING

- Swallowed poison - Drink a full glass of water
- Poison on Skin - Remove clothes. Wash with soap and water. Rinse the skin with water for 10 minutes.
- Breathed in Poison - Move into fresh air. Open doors and windows and let fresh air into the area.
- Poison in the Eye - Gently rinse the eye for 15 minutes with body temperature water.

## POISON PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- Install safety latches on all cupboards containing harmful products.
- Keep all products in original containers.
- Know the names of the plants in your home.
- Keep products and plants out of the reach of children.
- Keep ashtrays empty and out of the reach of children.
- Keep alcoholic beverages out of the reach of children.
- Move cleaning products from under the sink to upper shelves or locked cabinets.
- Remove medicines including vitamins from countertops, window sills and open areas.
- Flush old medicine down the toilet.
- Keep bleaches, soaps and detergents, insect sprays, weed killers and fertilizers, paints, rust removers, antifreeze, window washer fluid and motor oils in locked storage or cabinets and especially out of the reach of children.