



NEWS RELEASE

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AAPCC Applauds Adoption of Pain Management Best Practices Report

Alexandria, VA – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) strongly supports adoption of the Pain Management Best Practices: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Recommendations report. At a time when our nation is struggling to find the safest path forward for those with acute and chronic pain, this report gives physicians and other caregivers strong guidance on how to best assist patients.

The Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force, created by Congress under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, worked tirelessly on this comprehensive and evidence-based report. Specifically, poison control centers would like to thank Dr. Michael Lynch, Medical Director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center, for his service on this task force.

The final report includes utilizing poison control centers as a key recommendation under the “Medication” section. “Centers are well equipped to assist with adverse medication effects and interactions, prevent unintentional exposures through education and outreach, as well as guiding first responders and healthcare providers in the assessment and treatment of overdose and drug toxicity,” said Dr. Lynch. Involvement of a poison control center can lead to a potentially better outcome for the patient and reduce unnecessary health care resource utilization. “Individuals who live with pain are suffering and need compassionate, individualized, and effective approaches to improving pain and clinical outcomes. This report is a roadmap that is desperately needed to treat our nation’s pain crisis,” said Vanila M. Singh, M.D., MACM, Task Force chair, and chief medical officer of the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

Poison control centers across the U.S. operate 24/7/365 and receive approximately 3 million calls annually from the public, health care providers, law enforcement, and other safety agencies. When someone calls the nationwide toll free number (800-222-1222 - Poison Help), he/she will speak with highly trained Specialists in Poison Information (primarily pharmacists and nurses), who diagnose, triage, and offer treatment recommendations to callers with 24-hour oversight from Board Certified Medical and Clinical Toxicologists. We answer calls from every state and territory in our nation under the same Poison Help number.

AAPCC would like to thank the entire task force for their work on this vital report. AAPCC reminds the public that in case of potential poison exposure, call the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222. To save the number in your phone text POISON to 797979. Poison experts are available 24/7 and advice is free of charge.

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About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison center members in their efforts to treat and prevent drug, consumer product, animal, environmental and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**