



# Poison Prevention

Newsletter

March 2012

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY • 750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

## March is Poison Prevention Month!

### New Educator Joins the Poison Center

The New York Poison Center welcomes Jenn Coyle as a new Health Educator. Jenn will be focusing on the center's public outreach in the north eastern region of our coverage area. She has a BS and MS in Elementary Education and 13 years of classroom experience in Public Education. After spending 15 years teaching on Long Island, she moved back to her Upstate roots. "Working alongside of the Poison Center's Professional and Public Educators has been incredible. I was never aware of what a multi faceted organization the Poison Center truly is." Jenn feels very passionate about the work that is done in the Poison Center and takes great pride in educating the public in their awareness of poison prevention. "My goal is to enhance outreach efforts by developing partnerships with the surrounding counties, making more residents aware of the Upstate New York Poison Center's number, services and resources."

### Up and Away

Every year more than 60,000 young children end up in emergency rooms because they got into medicine. Oftentimes, it happens shortly after use. In order to keep children safe, parents and caregivers must take the time and follow simple poison safety rules:

- Store medicines in a safe location up high and out of reach and sight of children.
- Put medicines and vitamins away every time immediately after use. Never leave medicines or vitamins out on a kitchen counter or at a sick child's bedside, even if you have to give the medicine again in a few hours.
- Always secure the safety lock on medication! Make sure the safety cap is locked every time after use.



Parents and caregivers should follow the steps necessary to make sure medicines are safely stored, and most importantly, what to do in case of an emergency.

- Be prepared in case of an emergency. Program the Poison Control Center number 1-800-222-1222 into home and cell phones so you have it if you need it.

In recent years, the number of accidental overdoses in children increased by 20 percent. To help keep children safe through proper medicine storage, the CDC's Up and Away and Out of Sight campaign educates parents and caregivers by providing them with information to store medicine safely and protect the health of their children. In addition to practicing safe medicine storage on a daily basis, it is also important to:

- Teach children about medicine safety. Tell children what medicine is and why you must be the one to give it to them. Never tell children medicine is candy so they'll take it, even if your child does not like to take his or her medicine.
- Tell guests about medicine safety. Remind babysitters, houseguests, and other visitors to keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicines in them up and away and out of sight when they are at your home.

To learn more visit [www.Upandaway.org](http://www.Upandaway.org).

# Collaboration = Successful National Poison Prevention Week



For the past 14 years, first year students at the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (UBSPPS) have been presenting poison prevention information to elementary students in the Buffalo City and Northern Erie County Schools during National Poison Prevention Week.

With guidance from the Public Health Educator at the Upstate New York Poison Center and UBSPPS Office of Experiential Education faculty, pharmacy students are charged with developing a 30-minute interactive lesson geared towards Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students. Working in small groups, pharmacy students discuss ways children can avoid accidental poisonings, demonstrate poison look alikes, and explain the role of a pharmacist. Each child is given material from the Upstate New York Poison Center including phone stickers, magnets and coloring books to share with family members. Each year, approximately 4000 elementary students receive the presentations.

The pharmacy students are gaining hands-on experience while giving back to the community and report enjoying interacting with the elementary students. The teachers, staff and elementary students are learning valuable information about preventing poisonings and what to do if a poisoning does happen. A win-win for all involved.



## Medicine Safety

### The Poison Center reminds you :

#### Select the right dose

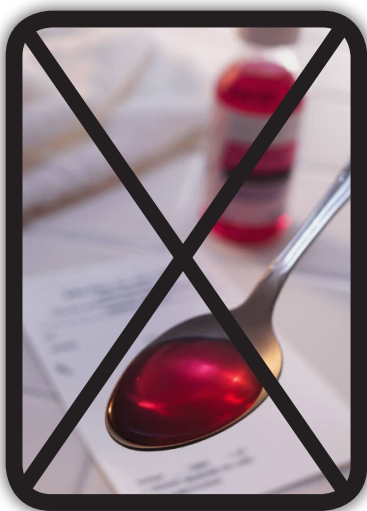
Read directions carefully to determine the right dose every time

#### Use the dosing device that comes with the product

Follow directions and use the dosing device for proper measures

#### Keep the dosing device, spoon or syringe, which comes with the product for further use

Avoid using a kitchen "teaspoon" or "tablespoon", as these spoons differ and are not accurate measures of "tsp" or "Tbsp".



## The Poison Prevention Week Council is 50 Years Old!

The U.S. Congress established National Poison Prevention Week on September 16, 1961 (P.L. 87-319). Shortly thereafter, the Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this annual event and promote poison prevention.

National Poison Prevention Week, the third week in March each year, is a week nationally designated to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. However, every day people can and do prevent poisonings. We invite you to become actively involved in helping ensure the safety of children and adults in your home and your community.



# Giving Acetaminophen to Infants?

## Know the Concentration

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is urging consumers to carefully read the labels of liquid acetaminophen marketed for infants to avoid giving the wrong dose of medicine.

A new, less concentrated form of the popular medication is on store shelves. Giving the wrong dose of acetaminophen can cause the medication to be ineffective if too little is given or can cause serious side effects, possibly, death, if too much is given.

Until recently, liquid acetaminophen marketed for infants has only been available in a stronger concentration that doesn't require giving the infants as much liquid with each dose. But now both concentrations of liquid acetaminophen are available, packaged under many different brands. Before giving the medication, parents and caregivers need to know whether they have the less concentrated version or the older, more concentrated medication. FDA is concerned that infants could be given too much or too little of the medicine if the different concentrations of acetaminophen are confused.

Here's what the agency wants parents and caregivers to do:

- Read the Drug Facts label on the package very carefully to identify the concentration of the liquid acetaminophen, the correct dosage, and the directions for use.
- Be aware that there is no dosing amount specified on the medication box for children younger than 2 years of age. If you have a child younger than 2 years old, always check with your healthcare provider before giving the medication. When you have that conversation be sure you are both talking about the same concentration.
- Do not depend on a banner proclaiming that the product is "new." Some medicines with the old concentration also have this headline on their packaging.
- Use only the dosing device provided with the purchased product in order to correctly measure the right amount of liquid acetaminophen.

The Upstate New York Poison Center recommends that you carefully read the label and follow directions before giving any medication to your child. The Poison Center is available 24 hours a day, to take your call.

Source: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

More concentrated, still available

### Drug Facts

Active Ingredient (in each 0.8 mL)	Purpose
Acetaminophen 80 mg.....	Pain reliever/fever reducer

Less concentrated, newly available

### Drug Facts

Active Ingredient (in each 5 mL)	Purpose
Acetaminophen 160 mg.....	Pain reliever/Fever reducer





# SERVICE AREA FOR THE UPSTATE NEW YORK POISON CENTER

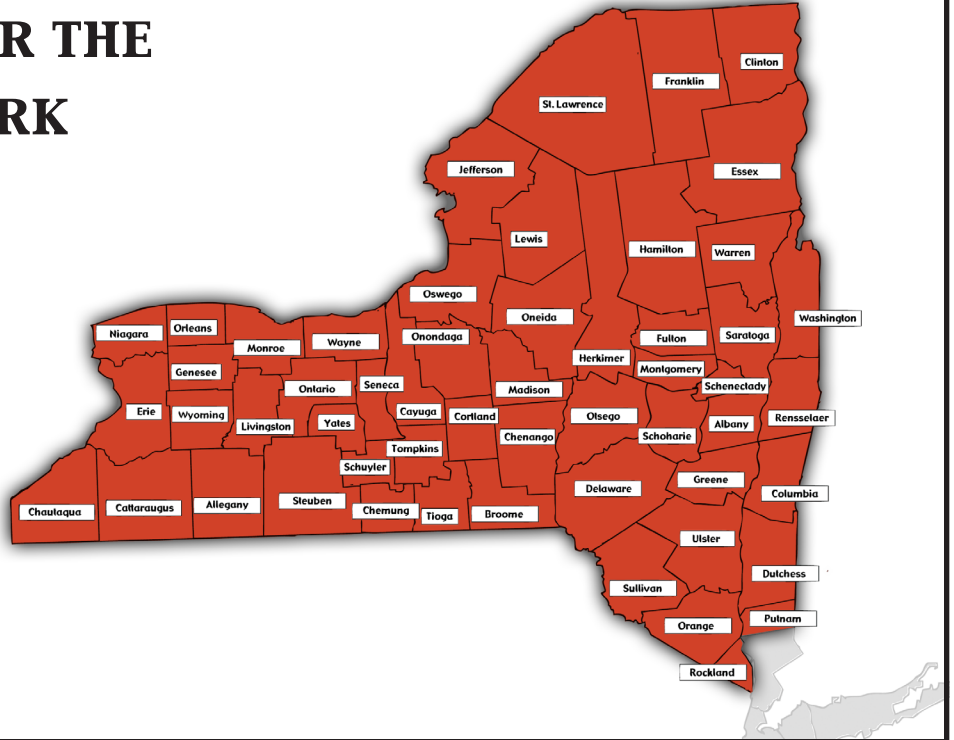


Upstate  
New York  
Poison  
Center

1-800-222-1222

[www.upstatepoison.org](http://www.upstatepoison.org)

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## Unintentional Poisoning Can Happen To You...At Any Age!

To receive your FREE telephone stickers, magnets, and information brochures, dial 1-800-222-1222 ask for the Health Educator at The Upstate New York Poison Center.