

## **Ruth A. Lawrence Poison and Drug Information Center (RALPDIC)**

### **Case for Action:**

- Poisoning (acute or chronic) is one of the most common forms of accidental injury to all age groups. The RALPDIC strives to prevent poisoning through educational outreach, but when exposures do occur, the poison center offers expertise guidance on proper care of the victim.

### **Description:**

- RALPDIC is a call center located at Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester Medical Center; it is the second oldest poison center in the country and the first to serve the general public.
- Charged by the NYS DOH to prevent poisoning and enhance the treatment of poisonings, RALPDIC covers 12 counties: Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler, Yates, Tompkins, and Tioga.
- Service is provided around the clock to the general public, health care providers, industry, health departments and schools.
- The poison center provides the following services:
  - Poison information and treatment recommendations
  - Drug information
  - Lactation information (use of drugs during lactation)
  - HAZMAT, disaster preparedness consultation
  - Poison prevention education to the public
  - Poison prevention education and treatment strategies in poisonings for health care professionals
  - Professional education on disaster preparedness

### **Partners/Funding:**

- RALPDIC is primarily funded by New York State, through the NYSDOH.
- Additional funding comes in the form of a grant from the Federal government via the Health Resources and Service Agency (HRSA), contracts with county health departments (Monroe and Livingston), and other smaller grants where available.
- A Board of Advisors composed of stakeholders representing the various counties served by the poison center includes physicians, nurses, public health department administrators, health educators, industry workers, insurance company representatives, and 911 and EMS staff members. The board is a valuable alliance and resource for the center.

### **Outcomes:**

- RALPDIC receives approximately 22,000 calls per year, of which approximately 14,000 are related to drug, chemical or venom exposure. Each exposure reflects either a true poisoning, or a call to rule out a poisoning. All exposures are evaluated and treated as appropriate.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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