



Utah Poison Control Center Receives Accreditation

The Utah Poison Control Center continues to maintain sustained quality, as evidenced by its recent re-accreditation as a regional poison control center.

November 3, 2009

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) has accredited the **Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC)** for another five years. The UPCC was one of the first poison centers nationwide to receive accreditation in the early eighties, and has been reaccredited every five years since that time.

The designation by the AAPCC places the **UPCC** among 58 accredited poison centers in the United States.

To be accredited by the AAPCC, a center must meet a number of strict standards, including providing 24-hour poison information and telephone management to the public and health care professionals, employment of nurses and pharmacists certified as poison information specialists, a board-certified medical toxicologist to provide medical oversight and direction, an ongoing quality improvement program, written guidelines for evaluation and management of toxic exposures and public and professional education programs.

"Accreditation represents a major accomplishment. It means we have met the national standards of excellence for poison centers," said **Barbara Crouch, PharmD, MSPH**. "I'm incredibly proud of our highly trained professional staff who work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to poisoning emergencies and provide clinical toxicology consultation. The UPCC is a valuable resource for both health care providers and the public."

The **UPCC** provides life-saving poison information to families and health care professionals that it serves. Over 55,000 calls from Utah residents were received by the UPCC in 2008. These included poison exposures in all ages. Seventy-seven percent were managed on-site with telephone follow-up. This represents incredible financial savings to the state of Utah.

As a program of the College of Pharmacy, the **UPCC** receives calls every day from parents, grandparents, child care providers, teachers, health care providers, pharmacists, nurses and physicians in every area of practice regarding poisonings with medication, household and industrial products and other potentially dangerous substances.

The center's telephone number is 1-800-222-1222. Its website is www.utahpoisoncontrol.org.

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