



# Poison Prevention

Newsletter

December 2018

UPSTATE  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210



## Holiday Warning: Button Batteries Can Be Deadly

While most button battery ingestions pass through the gut without a problem the number of harmful or fatal battery ingestions has dramatically increased in recent years. Swallowed batteries can burn through a child's esophagus in just 2 hours or could lead to surgery or even death. About the size of a nickel, 20 mm, 3-volt lithium coin cells are the most hazardous as they are big enough to get stuck and burn faster. Serious complications have also been reported when small batteries are placed in the nose or ear - urgent removal is critical.



*www.AAPCC.org, retrieved 11/13/18*

### Tips for Protecting Young Children

- Never leave batteries out in plain view. Store ALL batteries out of sight and reach of young children.
- Check all household devices to be certain the battery compartment is secured shut. Use strong tape if necessary.
- Only purchase products that require a screwdriver or tool to open the battery compartment, or have a child-resistant locking mechanism. Extra work for you, less chance for your child to ingest a battery.
- Be especially cautious with any product that contains a battery that is as big as a penny or larger.
  - The 20 mm diameter lithium cell is one of the most serious problems when swallowed.
  - If swallowed and not removed promptly, these larger button batteries can burn a hole through a child's esophagus or even cause death.
- Don't allow children to play with batteries or with battery powered products that have easily accessible batteries.
- Don't insert or change batteries in front of small children, they may see it as a toy.

### If a Battery is Swallowed or Placed in the Ear or Nose

- Call the **National Battery Ingestion Hotline** at **800-498-8666**, immediately. Prompt action is critical. Don't wait for symptoms to develop. If the battery was swallowed, don't eat or drink until an x-ray shows the battery is beyond the esophagus. Batteries stuck in the esophagus must be removed as quickly as possible as severe damage can occur in just 2 hours. Batteries in the nose or ear also must be removed immediately to avoid permanent damage.



Upstate Medical University  
750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210  
P: 1.800.222.1222 F: 315.464.7077 W: upstatepoison.org



## NYS Signs the Drug Take Back Act Into Law

The 2018 Drug Take Back Act will give pharmaceutical manufacturers responsibility for the cost of managing and conducting a take-back program, including public education and awareness efforts in addition to drug collection, transport, and destruction. With this new law, pharmacies with 10 or more stores and mail-order pharmacies will be required to provide consumers with collection options to include drop boxes and prepaid mail-back envelopes. The measure will help to ensure that rural as well as urban communities have access to ongoing collection services to prevent diversion.

New York is the fourth state to require manufacturers to fund efforts to manage drug take-backs after Massachusetts, Vermont, and Washington state.

The new law directs the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to develop regulations for effective implementation, giving pharmacies the option to use kiosks, mail-back, or "other" approved systems. Kiosks, or drug drop boxes have proven to be the most convenient and cost-effective collection method and could be required by the DOH.

The DEC conducted a two-year a drug take back pilot program with 246 retail pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities. The success of the pilot demonstrated that drug take-back is both possible and indispensable.

Locally, the Upstate New York Poison Center has been instrumental in drug take back events in Onondaga County since 2010, prior to the first DEA drug take back day. Working with the Prevention Network, Walgreen's, Kinney Drugs, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, Cicero Police and the Camillus Police Departments the first drug drop off events were set up in the parking lots of Camillus Kinney Drugs, Walgreen's on Grant Boulevard and at Kinney's Cicero location supervised by local police and attended by volunteers from several organizations. Presently, the Upstate New York Poison Center coordinates Onondaga County's SNADD (Sharps, Needles and Drug Disposal) with 10 participating police departments and 2 colleges in the county. For ongoing drug disposal and needle disposal available throughout the year in Onondaga County please visit our website at <http://www.upstate.edu/poison/news/news-archive/snadd1.php>.

## What older adults did with leftover opioid medications\*

Among those who had a prescription for opioids in the past two years



**86%**

Saved for later use/kept at home



**13%**

Returned to approved location\*\*



**9%**

Disposed, threw in trash, or flushed down toilet

July/August 2018 Report: Older Adults' Experiences with Opioid Prescriptions

\*Respondents could select more than one response; \*\*Pharmacy, health care provider, law enforcement, or community takeback event



### DID YOU KNOW.....

Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first US minister to Mexico and a botanist.

Guess what holiday plant was named in his honor? If you guessed poinsettia, you are RIGHT!

Contact with the sap of a poinsettia may cause the skin to develop a mild itch, however, this plant will generally not cause toxic effects in humans. The plant can, however, be toxic to dogs and cats so be sure to keep poinsettias out of the reach of pets.

For a blast from the past be sure to watch this video from the 1980's on YouTube.

Although lilies of the valley are toxic to humans, as to poinsettias...read above.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rID9wpy1Ygl>

Thanks to the Illinois Poison Center for bringing this one to our attention.

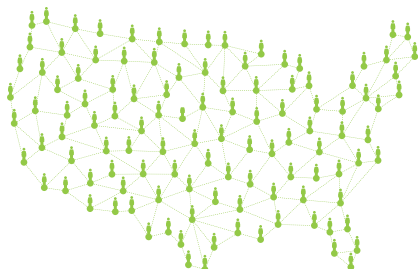
# FACTS AND FIGURES

Every **nine minutes** in America, a child goes to the emergency department due to accidental medication poisoning.<sup>1</sup>



In 2016, more than **27,000** people - **76 a day** - died of overdoses involving prescription medications.<sup>2</sup>

An estimated **6 million** people aged 12 or older misused prescription drugs in the past month.<sup>3</sup>



Approximately **1.7 million** Americans met criteria for prescription opioid use disorder in 2017.<sup>3</sup>

1. Safe Medication Storage: Recent Trends and Insights for Families and Health Educators.

<https://www.safekids.org/research-report/safe-medicine-storage>

2. National Institute on Drug Abuse

3. Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2017-nsduh-annual-national-report>