

Highlights for Poison Prevention Month 2020

March is designated as Poison Prevention Month at the Upstate New York Poison Center

During the month, the UNYPC schedules events, expands outreach, distributes even more material than usual and partners with many organizations, all in an effort to spread the word of poison safety throughout the 54-county area we serve.

The UNYPC was very fortunate to have received several grants to put locking medicine boxes in the homes of our most vulnerable population, young children. Annually 87% of visits to emergency departments for children aged 5 and under involve adult medications. Of those, 38% involve grandparents' meds. Therefore, the UNYPC is initiating several projects to help combat this problem including:

Project Medicine Lock-UP

Kinney Drugs, Inc and Nascentia Health's VNA Foundation graciously agreed to fund UNYPC's Project Medicine Lock-UP in an effort to reduce children's access to medications by supplying 1,000 locking medicine boxes to homes where children live or visit. During an initial training session, parents and grandparents will be taught poison safety strategies by Nascentia staff and will be directed to lock up their medicines using the medicine box provided to them. To measure success following the educational efforts, program evaluations will test knowledge of poison safety strategies, measure

behavior change related to strategies and assess level of compliance with proper use of the supplied medication box. The proposed plan will encompass 4 counties of CNY to include parts of Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego and Oneida counties and will kick off in March 2020.

Upstate Grant Funding

In the Fall of 2019, with support of the Advocates for Upstate Medical University, we began a pilot program at Upstate Medical University, University Hospital in Syracuse NY to dispense medication lock boxes and provide education on medicine safety to patients seen at University Hospital who had children living in the home where there were opioid pain medicines or if a child had required treatment due to poisoning.

Thanks to additional funding from the Upstate Foundation we anticipate expansion of the program at University Hospital. Through these combined efforts, the Upstate New York Poison Center anticipates the distribution of approximately 800 medication lock boxes to families of children targeted as a high risk for poisoning.

Opioid Research Center of Central NY

With funding from the Opioid Research Center of Central NY, we will



provide the Upstate Day Care Center with medication lock boxes for 50-100 caregivers. In follow-up, we will conduct a survey to determine the use and perception of the medication lock boxes by caregivers, which will help inform future programs.

Additionally, this grant will provide funding for medication lock boxes and education about medicine safety to be provided through a health fair to be held in Rochester, NY. Following the distribution of 100 boxes, we will be conducting a survey to assess the use and perception of the medication lock boxes.

Western New York

For 15+ 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.

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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. Over 4,000 elementary school children participate in the presentation and receive materials from the Upstate New York Poison Center including phone stickers, magnets and coloring books to share with their families.

The pharmacy students gain hands-on experience while enjoying student interaction and giving back to the community. Teachers, staff and students all learn valuable poison safety information to help prevention poisonings before they happen and most importantly they learn to call the poison center in a poison emergency or for poison prevention information. A winning combination for all involved.

McMahon-Ryan Child Advocacy Center

The UNYPC will be working with the McMahon-Ryan Child Advocacy Center during the month of March to promote the services of a poison center as well as medication safety in the home. CAC clinicians and staff will disseminate medication safety brochures, poison center magnets and safety checklists to clients. The goal is to increase awareness of the phone number for a poison emergency or for poison information within this at-risk population. Additionally, healthy medication safety practices will be encouraged in the training session as well as in the materials provided to the client. McMahon Ryan is Onondaga County's first and only child advocacy center, dedicated to healing abused children and raising awareness that prevents child abuse serving 1,500 children annually.

Drug Take Back Survey Results

The UNYPC conducted a recent survey of callers to the Poison Center. Only 11% of respondents were from Onondaga County.

When asked questions about their drug take back efforts, responses included:

- On preferred disposal method
 - 12.6% reported holding on to their medication
 - 42.7% reported throwing away their medication
 - 28.1% reported taking back to the police, pharmacy, or medical facility
- On why they dispose of their unused medication
 - 29.1% reported to clean their homes of medications
 - 40.8 reported to prevent anyone from taking their drugs on purpose or accidentally
 - 29.1% responded "both"
- On if they knew of any drop off locations in their area
 - 57.3% said yes
 - 42.7% said no
- Of those who said yes,
 - 31.7% reported they had previously dropped off medication there
 - 68.3% reported they have never dropped medication there
- Of those who said no,
 - 87.2% reported they would be interested in using that in the future
 - 12.8% reported they would not be interested



Based on these findings we recommend continued marketing and advertising of all drug take back efforts throughout our 54-county area. Local health departments, law enforcement and community agencies can easily post information about the collection locations in their counties for on-going drug disposal, about the semi-annual DEA drug take back days as well as links to safe disposal messaging. Encourage your community to **TAKE IT BACK.**

Click image below to watch our video about safe medicine disposal!



March 15th – 21st, 2020 is
NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK
Keep your family safe!

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE ...
FROM MEDICINE

- Dose matters! Always read label directions before giving or taking any medication.
- Kitchen spoons are not meant to measure medicine. Only use a medicine cup, spoon or syringe marked with proper dosing measures.
- Children will imitate! Avoid taking medication while they are watching.
- Children act fast! Put medicine away immediately after each use, preferably in a locked medicine box.
- Purses and suitcases are treasure chests to young children. Identify safe storage space for visitors bringing medicine into your home or provide them a locked med box to store their medications.
- Children who visit Emergency Departments often get into their grandparents' medications.
- Be sure medication is safely stored when grandchildren come to visit.
- With 25% of children under 5 in daycare in the US, be sure your caregiver has the Poison Center programmed into their cell phones at 1-800-222-1222.



For more information about PPM 2020 click here



The Upstate New York Poison Center is showing off its new logo while reminding you we still provide the same great service 24/7/365.

Remember, in a poison emergency or for poison prevention information, call us!

The poison experts are only a phone call away!



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