



COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY
NEW MEXICO POISON &
DRUG INFORMATION CENTER

March 2020

NMPPM Weekly

New Mexico Poison Prevention

Focusing on Our Pharmily

“We are pharmily, I got all my colleagues with me!”

This week we are looking at poison prevention through an occupational lens. That said, it is an absolute must to give kudos to the exceptional staff members at our Poison Center, or our *Pharmily*.

Inside this edition you will find:

- A message from our director;
- Poison Center stats and facts;
- Poison prevention tips for the workplace;
- A prize-winning puzzle and much more.

Lets take a peek inside!

The NMPDIC saved New Mexicans \$50.1 M in avoided healthcare costs!



A Message From Our Director

A poison center is only as good as the people answering the phones, so I want to give thanks for a fantastic year of effort by our talented and knowledgeable Specialists in Poison Information. Our pharmacists and pharmacy technician have extraordinary expertise and this year sustained our perfect 100% history passing the national certification exam.

Also thanks to our amazing educator, who has exceeded her goals for outreach three years in a row. Preventing poisoning and promoting awareness of our services is a vital component of our mission.

I am equally proud of the expertise of our medical staff. I congratulate Dr. Warrick for attaining board certification in Addiction Medicine, to add to his toxicology credentials. He has become a critical piece of the state-wide efforts to combat opioid addiction.

I thank Dr. Seifert for his provision of statewide education regarding a new anti-venom available for the 2019 snakebite season and for promoting education of our pharmacy and medical students and residents.

Last, but not least, thanks to our newest employee, Scott Roberts, our Administrative Assistant. Scott increases our depth of expertise in graphics design and all things computer.

To maintain all of these activities, the poison center depends upon private philanthropy, in addition to state funding. We have some challenges ahead, in that a significant part of our funding is derived from the Tobacco Settlement fund, which has generated diminishing resources the last two years, and as a result has depleted our reserve funding considerably.

To this end, I have created, along with Angela Lovato, the Dennis S. Peña Poison Center Endowment fund. Once fully funded, this endowment will become an enduring tribute to a legendary New Mexican pharmacist who was passionate about the New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center. We will honor his memory by promoting education regarding poisoning to vulnerable populations in our state.

[Donate to the Dennis S. Peña Poison Center Endowment Fund](#)

NMPDIC PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR FY19

Program Performance Measure	FY19	FY 18	FY 17	FY 16	FY 15
Number of total calls	23,079	23,298	23,930	25,534	26,794
Number of drug information calls	1,336	3,024	3,746	4,392	5,236
Number of poisoning exposure calls	19,576	21,254	20,184	21,023	21,556
Number of poisoning exposure calls from home	13,472	13,732	14,566	1,527	15,765
Number of poisoning exposures treated safely at home*	11,053	11,260	11,798	12,358	12,927
Percentage of exposures treated at home	82%	82%	81%	81%	82%
Cost savings associated with home treatment (assuming each emergency dept. visit costs \$1,050)**	\$11.6M	\$11.8M	\$12.4M	\$13M	\$13.5M
Number of health care facility consultations with a toxicologist or specialist	6,637	4,878	5,000	4,847	5,212
Cost savings associated with poison center toxicologist involvement in exposures treated in health care facility (assuming each consult saves \$2,361/day x 3.2 days)***	\$50.1M	\$36.9M	\$37.8M	\$36.6M	\$39.4M
Total cost savings	\$61.7M	\$48.7M	\$49.6M	\$52.9M	\$42.4M
Number of students taught	67	80	60	62	65

*Caller from non-health-care facility treated or observed at non-health-care facility

**2010 DHHS Medical Expenditure Panel Survey extrapolated to 2015

Learn more about [Poison Prevention Month](#)

Our Poison Specialists are some of the finest in the country, maintaining a 100% passing rate of the national certification exam.

Poison Prevention in the WorkPlace

Bet you didn't know that we can help with occupational poisonings too. We have you covered from radiation exposures to chemical spills.

We regularly help healthcare professionals of all kinds including school nurses, veterinarians, laboratory scientists, the NM Department of Health as well as other occupations.

Follow the tips below to prevent poisonings in the workplace:

- Always read labels and follow directions carefully;
- Always store chemicals in their original containers with labels intact;
- Know the names of the chemicals that you work with and know the safety data sheet information for each chemical;
- Apply safety data sheet labels (diamond labels) to chemical containers;
- Always wear personal protective equipment;
- Avoid mixing chemicals unless you are certain that it will not cause an adverse reaction;
- Always follow safety protocols; and
- If you or a coworker get poisoned, call **1.800.222.1222** right away! Do not wait for symptoms to appear.

 COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence at the UNM College of Pharmacy!

1945-2020
DIAMOND CAMPAIGN

CryptoTox

Crack the code below, and be the first to post it on our [Facebook page](#) to claim your prize!

s dldkfj dhfnvf dcrv sxctk s klvwk-urlk vjcti cp njtv fqifjkd:
bf sjf iwsjalhz.

Hint: v equals g and i equals p

Now, that's something you can hang your head set on...



“The Poison Center is an indispensable resource for physicians and for their patients.”

“The New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center has been a vital resource throughout my 47 years in New Mexico.

Always courteous and helpful, the Poison Center has helped me with such varied questions as what to do when our donkey drank a gallon of house paint or our children ate sweet pea seeds to what might be interactions between medications my patients or my relatives were taking...

I have even called the Poison Center from foreign travel regarding a medication question...”

- Dr. Lance Chilton