

Christchurch Hospital

Prevention Measures

- Always ask the chemist for childproof caps—they are cheap and effective.
- After using any medicines – recap with childproof cap.
- Never leave medicines within reach of children or unattended.
- Store medicines and household chemicals, e.g. detergents out of reach and out of sight of children, and medicines in locked cupboards.
- Be aware that visitors may have pills/medicines. If so, ask them not to leave them unattended.
- Do not give your pill bottles to the baby to use as a rattle.
- When children are visiting other people's houses, be aware that their pills/medicine and other poisons may be within reach of children.
- Use medicines and chemicals safely.
- Household chemicals should be kept in their correct containers (**NOT in soft drink bottles**) and stored on a high shelf out of reach of children.
- Read labels carefully before use.
- Remember that outside plants, mushrooms and berries can be harmful. Check your garden for poisonous plants.
- If you suspect a child has taken a poisonous substance **do not** make them vomit.

Dial 111 immediately if your child:

- Has difficulty breathing
- Looks very unwell
- Becomes lethargic or does not respond to you

Otherwise immediately contact

- GP or
- Poisons Centre – 0800 764 766

- When you take the child to hospital or to the GP, take the poison, eg. pill bottle, berries, with you.
- Common serious causes of childhood poisoning are paracetamol, antidepressants, adult heart pills, household chemicals and corrosives, including dishwasher machine detergent.

Management of your Child on Discharge from Hospital

Symptoms to watch for:

Information on your child's admission will be sent to your GP.

Have you changed your GP? If so, do we have your current GP recorded correctly?

If you do not have a regular GP, please talk to your nurse who can give you a list of GPs in your area.

If you have been discharged from the Children's Acute Assessment Unit, one of the nurses will phone you the next day to check on your child's progress and answer any questions you may have.

If you are concerned over the next 24 hours, please contact us on 364 0428.

Continue to contact your GP for ongoing care of your child.

Children's health information website: www.kidshealth.org.nz

Christchurch Hospital website: www.cdhb.govt.nz

Poisons Website: www.poisons.co.nz

