

Finding a Toxicologist: A Guide for Families and Doctors

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The Poison Control Center provides a telephone hotline to the public, and to health care providers, offering information about poisons and poisoning. In some instances, families or health care providers inquire about the availability of clinical evaluations with a toxicologist.

There are fewer than 400 Board certified medical toxicologists nationwide (many are identifiable via the American College of Medical Toxicology at <http://www.acmt.net/directory/find.asp>), and fewer than 35 are available with special pediatric expertise. These toxicologists work at Poison Control Centers, in hospitals, at academic research institutions, within government agencies, and within commercial industry. Therefore, there are a limited number of qualified physicians available to provide outpatient medical evaluation of individual patients.

Instructions for Families Seeking a Medical Toxicologist

See your family's primary health care provider for evaluation and guidance. Your health care provider may call The Poison Control Center during normal business hours and ask to speak with a clinical toxicologist. Often, this guidance will satisfy concerns, or lead to an appropriate referral.

Instructions for Health Care Providers

Health care providers wishing to speak to a toxicologist may contact The Poison Control Center during normal business hours, or may contact a toxicologist per the American College of Medical Toxicology directory <http://www.acmt.net/directory/find.asp>.

For concerns about environmental or occupational chemical exposures, please see [Referral Sites for Environmental or Occupational Toxicology Concerns].