



Why the world needs more poisons centres

A webinar of the Global Chemicals and Health Network

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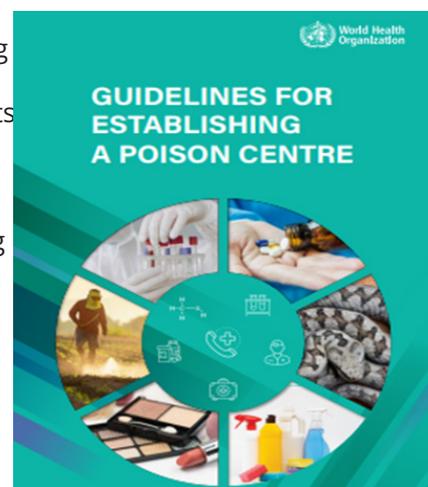
Summary

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In January this year WHO published updated Guidelines for Establishing a Poison Centre (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240009523>) providing essential guidance for the operations of a poison centre and describing the essential roles that these centres provide. The 2021 update in particular reflects the increasingly important roles that poisons centres play in toxicovigilance, the public health management of chemical incidents and emergencies, and describes the innovations in the use of information technology that have taken place over the last 20 years and the increasingly important role that networking plays in supporting the varied poison centre roles.

More recently, WHO has re-emphasized the role of poison centres and recognized their value as a part of national health systems. WHO supports and advocates for strengthening poison centres as part of achieving its ambitious Triple Billion targets to improve the health of billions by 2023. All countries urged to strengthen poisons centres but recent data shows that only 47% of countries have poisons centres – a figure that remains stubbornly static.

The recent examples of poisons centres providing alerts and surveillance and improving product safety during the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated one of the many reasons why the world needs more poison centres.



Aim

The webinar is expected to cover the following topics:

- Introduction to the new WHO Guidelines for Establishing a Poisons Centre
- Toxicovigilance initiatives
- Capacity-building and training in countries
- Collaborative antidote initiatives
- Poison centre networks

The aim of this webinar on poisons centres will provide an overview of the new updated **WHO Guidelines for Establishing a Poison Centre** and provide inspirational examples from around the world of the valuable work of poisons centres. The webinar will be a complement to earlier webinars that introduced the role of poison centres in the preparedness and response to chemical incidents.

The event will be open to members of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, the Global Chemicals and Health Network as well as members of WHO's Poison Centre Network, underlying the importance of collaboration between different networks and specialists.