



North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards Policy



State Poison Center

Policy:

The state poison center should be utilized by the 911 center and the responding EMS services to obtain assistance with the prehospital triage and treatment of patients who have a potential or actual poisoning.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Improve the care of patients with poisonings, envenomations, and environmental/biochemical terrorism exposures in the prehospital setting.
- Provide for the most timely and appropriate level of care to the patient, including the decision to transport or treat on the scene.
- Integrate the State Poison Center into the prehospital response for hazardous materials and biochemical terrorism responses

Procedure:

1. The 911 call center will identify and if EMD capable, complete key questions for the Overdose/Poisoning, Animal Bites/Attacks, or Carbon Monoxide/Inhalation/HazMat emergency medical dispatch complaints and dispatch the appropriate EMS services and/or directly contact the State Poison Center for consultation.
2. If no immediate life threat or need for transport is identified, EMS personnel may conference the patient/caller with the Poison Center Specialist at the State Poison Center. If possible, dispatch personnel should remain on the line during conference evaluation.
3. The Poison Center Specialist at the State Poison Center will evaluate the exposure and make recommendations regarding the need for on-site treatment and/or hospital transport in a timely manner. If dispatch personnel are not on-line, the Specialist will recontact the 911 center and communicate these recommendations.
4. If the patient is determined to need EMS transport, the poison center Specialist will contact the receiving hospital and provide information regarding the poisoning, including treatment recommendations. EMS may contact medical control for further instructions or to discuss transport options.
5. If the patient is determined not to require EMS transport, personnel will give the phone number of the patient/caller to the Poison Center Specialist. The Specialist will initiate a minimum of one follow-up call to the patient/caller to determine the status of patient.
6. Minimal information that should be obtained from the patient for the state poison center includes:
 - Name and age of patient
 - Substance(s) involved
 - Time of exposure
 - Any treatment given
 - Signs and symptoms
7. Minimal information which should be provided to the state poison center for mass poisonings, including biochemical terrorism and HazMat, includes:
 - Substance(s) involved
 - Time of exposure
 - Signs and symptoms
 - Any treatment given