



## INFORMATION IN ENGLISH

### Poison Information Centre

Children's Hospital P&A Kyriakou

Athens 11762

Greece

Director Dr P. Neou,

Emergency number: **(0030) 2107793777**

Fax: 00302107486114 Email:

[poison\\_ic@aglaiakyriakou.gr](mailto:poison_ic@aglaiakyriakou.gr)

available for consultation 24 hours/day,  
to medical professionals and the public

Call if you need doctor advice on the treatment of poisoning or when  
you suspect toxic exposure

You will get information on:

Treatment, toxic properties

Symptoms of poisoning,

In case of poisoning or poisoning risks, call a physician or a Poison Control  
Centre, and try to provide the following information, needed for an  
individual assessment of risk and adequate treatment advice:

**Who** Age, weight, sex of person involved, phone number for call-back

**What** All you can tell about the agent involved

**How much** Try to estimate the maximal possibly absorbed dose

**When** Try to estimate the time elapsed since the incident

**What else** First symptoms observed? First aid given?

## **Athens Teratology Information Centre**

**Children's Hospital P&A Kyriakou**

**Athens 11762**

**Greece**

**Director Dr P. Neou,**

**Tel Number: (0030) 2107793777**

available for consultation 9:30am - 13:00, Monday to Friday  
to obstetricians, midwives and pregnant or lactating women

### **The Greek National Poison Information Centre**

PIC in Athens is unique in Greece and was established in 1975 in P&A Kyriakou Children's Hospital Complex because 46% of calls annually refer to children up to 14teen years old.

The staff consists of trained health professionals: pediatricians and physicians of internal medicine, pharmacists, and nurses experienced in prevention education strategies and a secretary

The number of calls from 4.000/per year in 1975 has risen over the years to about 40.000/per year.

The primary task is to provide instant information and supervision on risks, symptoms and treatments of poisoning.

It is FUNDED by the Government; it belongs to the National Health System and is LOCATED in P&A Kyriakou Children's Hospital (one of the two biggest children's hospitals in Greece).

Our customers are health professionals and the public.

Total No of staff are 12 employees.(when all places are occupied)

Our total annual enquiries include:

Total No of calls per year are 42000

Total calls per one hundred thousand inhabitants: 420.

Average No of calls per day: 120.

Average annual No of calls per employ: 6000

The calling back services are restricted partly to hospitals for selected cases. Official language is greek.

### **Fundamental aspects in Athens' PIC work:**

**Telephone service:** The main responsibility of the centre is to inform about risks, symptoms and treatment in cases of acute poisoning. The service is on a 24 hour basis open to the public as well as to health professionals and to Emergency Services of National Health System. The telephone number is written in all marketing products and drugs in Greece. Separately it exists a unique line for hospital calls. Inquiries are received from hospitals and physicians as well as from the general public.

The centre is the only unit of this kind in Greece and serves a population of 11 million inhabitants.

**Antidote programme:** The poison centre gives advice on the selection and amount of antidotes to be stored in hospitals all over the country. An updated list on the use of antidotes with treatment instructions is also issued by the centre.

In Athens the total antidotes' supply is one hundred bt per year. Also we provide, on emergency basis 24h daily, recommendation for use and handling of antidotes in Medical Units.

**Teratology Information Centre:** Athens Teratology Information Centre (TIS Athens) provide information to doctors, midwives and pregnant or lactating women about potential teratogenic action of drug and the effect of other substances during pregnancy and with the objective of preventing birth defects. At the same time the Centre receives questions about medications taken during breastfeeding.

It has been in operation since 1991 as part of Poison Information Centre and is member of European Teratology Information Service (ENTIS, [www.entis-org.com](http://www.entis-org.com))

The TIS Athens receives calls every day Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 13:00 pm.

**Education:** The centre participates in several different education programmes

- Postgraduate courses for physicians and other medical personnel;
- Students of Medical and Nursing School of Athens. University;
- Parents of infants in kindergarten for poisoning prevention;
- Teachers of elementary school to teach the pupils in the field of health education.

- In progress is educational program for public and professionals in rural areas about safe use of agrochemical products.

**Publications:** Publications are written by the centre on regular basis; annual epidemiologic report, booklet on poisoning prevention in childhood, scientific papers and books.

The centre also publishes articles in medical journals, books etc.



**Sources of information:** Poisindex (Micromedex) is used as basic information source. In addition literature documents for plants and agrochemicals as well as information by networking collaboration with other PICs, manufacturers (chemical industry and cosmetic industry) and national agencies, are used for specific cases. Toxicological and medical data is collected from different sources and processed to be used in the telephone service. The means and ways of poisoning are continuously changing which makes it very important to update the information.

**Product information and documentation:** The Poison Information Centre is the accredited by Greek law centre to accept and use confidential product declarations. Information on pharmaceuticals due to be registered is continuously received from the industry. On the same conditions the Ministry of agricultural development as well as the industry provides the centre with information on pesticides.

The product information is kept strictly confidential and is only used for evaluation of acute toxicity. In the information service the product composition is never revealed except in those cases it is of importance for medical reasons to inform a physician about the ingredients that will influence the treatment.

#### *Information the Poisons Centre needs*

We ask for information about *all* chemical products on the market, also the harmless ones. All the constituents present in the final product (except impurities less than 1 %) should be declared by their *chemical names and CAS numbers*. The use of group or class names is acceptable when all substances in the group have similar toxicological properties e.g. anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants (but not cationic surfactants), enzymes, perfumes or colours.

All the constituents that are classified as very toxic, toxic, corrosive or harmful should be declared with the actual concentration. For other ingredients we can accept the following concentration intervals 0-1%, 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-20%, 20-30%, 30-50%, 50-75%, and over 75%.

It is also important to provide the pH value if appropriate.

Please make sure that the name of the product in the product information is exactly the same as on the package. This is very important since it is the product name that is indicated when calling the Poisons Centre after poisoning incidents.

To facilitate for the Poisons Centre in handling product information, please specify the field of application of the products (e.g. cleaning agent, paint, sealing compound) and also whether they are for household or industrial use.

Poison Centre accepts product information electronically.

At this moment there is an electronic form through which the companies can introduce the data sheet of their products. This form is only in Greek language and the form must be completed in Greek, so we suggest them to have an representative in Greece for this operation.

**Cosmetics/ Products for personal care – Information to manufactures and suppliers:** Poisoning incidents with cosmetic or for personal care products represent approximately 5,7% of the inquiries to the Poison Centre (about 1934 the year 2007).