

POISON REMEDIES

ONE REMEDY TO KEEP ON HAND

Syrup of ipecac can be given to induce vomiting to anyone who has taken a poison. It is effective, inexpensive and can be bought at most pharmacies without a prescription. Keep a bottle on hand in a locked place and use it **only** if the doctor or poison control center suggests it! The time you save may save a life.

Ipecac Syrup and Activated Charcoal

An estimated one million poisonings occur in the United States each year. No one is immune to poisoning, and small children are especially at risk. If someone in your facility swallows a poison, what will you do? The following information is intended to help you do the right thing if a child swallows a poison.

The most important item to have when that poisoning occurs is syrup of ipecac. Your doctor or poison center may not always recommend that you have the patient vomit, but if they do, you should do it with **ipecac syrup**. If the patient should not vomit, **activated charcoal** may be recommended to absorb the poison.

Why?

The treatment for many poisonings requires removal of the toxic substance from the stomach before absorption occurs. **ipecac syrup** is safer than many other methods for removing these toxic substances. Sticking a finger down a child's throat or using salt water are not as effective and can be dangerous to the victim.

What?

Ipecac syrup **causes vomiting to occur**. The syrup will keep for several years of stored at room temperature. Activated charcoal **absorbs poisons that would cause additional physical harm if vomited**.

Who?

Ipecac syrup and **activated charcoal** can be used effectively with adults or children. **Make sure you follow the correct procedures.**

Where?

Ipecac syrup and **activated charcoal** may be obtained at any pharmacy. Your pharmacist is allowed to sell you one ounce (30 ml) without a prescription.

When?

Call your Poison Control Center first. **Ipecac syrup** should not be used in every poisoning emergency. All poison ingestions do not require the removal of the poison from the stomach.

With some poisons, such as drain cleaner, **activated charcoal** should be used. **DO NOT** use **ipecac syrup** unless instructed to do so by a physician or the Poison Control Center.

How?

If vomiting with **ipecac syrup** is recommended by a physician or the Poison Control Center, use the following procedure.

For children one year of age or older:

Give one tablespoon (15 ml) of **ipecac syrup**. Follow it by at least one glass (8 ounces) of water. Have the victim drink more liquid of possible. If vomiting has not occurred within 20 minutes, the dose of **ipecac syrup** can be repeated with more fluids. **ONLY REPEAT DOSAGE ONCE**. If vomiting does not occur, call your physician or the Poison Control Center.

The dose of **ipecac syrup** is different for infants, older children and for adults. Your physician or the Poison Control Center will give you complete instructions.

Carolinias Poison Center
(In Charlotte) **355-4000**
(Elsewhere) Toll Free **1-800-848-6946**