

NEWS RELEASE

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webPOISONCONTROL**[®] Upgrade Provides Expert Online Help for Many More Poison Exposures**

Washington, Oct 4, 2017 – An extensive upgrade of the web**POISONCONTROL**[®] online tool and app lets users get fully-automated expert guidance for swallowed poisons, products splashed in the eye or on the skin, and inhaled substances, whether or not symptoms are present. web**POISONCONTROL**, the first online triage tool for poison emergencies, provides case-specific recommendations for nearly 4000 poison exposures a month.

web**POISONCONTROL** is a free, confidential, easy-to-use online tool that helps people determine whether a household product, medicine, or plant is dangerous. More than 63,000 people have safely used web**POISONCONTROL** for online poison help. It takes just 3 minutes to enter the substance name, amount, age, weight, and symptoms. Users then receive a specific recommendation: it's safe to stay home; go immediately to the ER; or call Poison Control for further guidance. When it's safe to stay home, the app tells you what to do, then lists symptoms that are not of concern and symptoms that should trigger a call to Poison Control or an ER visit.

“Every day, nearly 6000 people call U.S. poison centers. Another [4000 to 9000](#) struggle with a poison exposure but don't call”, says Toby Litovitz, MD, director of the project. “Some don't call because they don't like talking on the phone or getting stuck in phone queues. Others are embarrassed, suspect they will be judged, don't have phone access, or don't want to scare their children. Too many people just guess - resulting in needless ER visits for those who don't need to see a doctor, and dire outcomes for those who stay home when they should have sought medical care.”

Now you can choose how you get poison help. If you prefer the internet, try web**POISONCONTROL**. If you'd rather talk to a person, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. Just don't guess. To prepare for a poison emergency, try web**POISONCONTROL** at www.poison.org or download the web**POISONCONTROL** app on the [App Store](#) or on [Google play](#).

web**POISONCONTROL** is sponsored by the National Capital Poison Center and used by [ten participating poison centers](#). Content is created by clinical toxicology experts. The simplicity of the app belies the more than 3300 complex algorithms used to analyze 52,000 products and 207,000 barcodes.

web**POISONCONTROL** is funded by donations, including a generous Potomac Health Foundation grant. To contribute, [donate](#) online. To learn more, visit our [Press Box](#) or [infographic](#).