

CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM (CPCS) POISON SAFETY UPDATE

Holiday Safety | December 2021, Issue 2

CPCS Hotline Staff Spotlight

What is your role at CPCS and how long have you been a poison expert?

I have been a Toxicology Management Specialist for 22 years. I provide triage and treatment advice for poisonings and drug overdose for patients and health care professionals through our Poison Hotline.

Tell us about yourself: In my role as a pharmacist trained in toxicology, I constantly review the medical literature. This improves my knowledge to give better advice to patients and leads to better patient outcomes. I have worked on

numerous research projects, presented information at toxicology meetings, and authored/co-authored several publications. This helps improve the information we give to callers.

Ben authored/co-authored [Investigating the Reliability of Substance Toxicity Information Found on the Internet in Pediatric Poisonings](#) and [Seizure in a Child After an Acute Ingestion of Levothyroxine](#), publications found in the National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine—helping to improve patient care and treatment.



“It is rewarding to relieve the fear and anxiety of callers. You can really hear the relief in their voice by the end of the call.”

—Ben

Ben is a Specialist in Poison Information, a doctor of pharmacy, and a Diplomate of the [American Board of Applied Toxicology](#), a nationwide recognition of clinical toxicologists demonstrating exceptional knowledge, experience, and competence.

Holiday Safety

Home for the holidays? Holiday activities, decorations, toys, plants, and foods may lead to accidental harmful ingestions or choking. Learn how to celebrate the holidays safely and prevent poison exposure this winter. Visit calpoison.org/holiday-hazards to learn more.



CPCS Poison Hotline

“I’m very satisfied with the help that I received. The gentleman was very kind and called me back a few hours afterwards to see how I was doing. I really appreciated that call.” —CPCS Caller

In 2020, 74% of total calls to the California Poison Control Hotline were managed at the location of the call. This means over 160,000 callers avoided going to a health care facility for medical attention. They got the help they needed over the phone at no cost.

Stay poison safe this holiday season by saving **1-800-222-1222** into your phone now. When you call, you will receive fast, free, and expert help on any poison related emergency or question.

Guess the Poison!

HINT #1 I am small, round, shiny, and flat. I have different names for resembling a coin or a button. You can find me in many holiday gifts – in musical greeting cards, watches, toys, hearing aids, and more.

HINT #2 Small children are most at-risk of getting accidentally poisoned. If swallowed,

I can severely damage the esophagus (throat region). If inserted into the nose or ears, I can cause lifelong injuries.

HINT #3 Keep me away from babies, children, and pets – out of reach and sight. When I am used up, safely dispose of me by recycling.

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER: Button battery (Coin/Disc battery)



Make a Gift



Enjoying our free CPCS services and resources? Support us by giving online. [Make a gift](#) today and help keep Californians safe from poison!

CPCS Resources



Scan the QR code with your phone or visit flow.page/calpoison for a variety of free CPCS resources.

Text TIPS to 20121 for weekly poison information in English and PUNTOS for Spanish.



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