



Poison HOTLINE

Partnership between Iowa Health System and
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

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Did you know

Every year in the United States, more than 3,500 people of all ages swallow miniature disc or "button" batteries. These batteries are commonly used to power hearing aids, thermometers, remote controls, calculators, singing greeting cards and many other items.

Serious burns to the esophagus have occurred as quickly as 2 hours after the battery becomes lodged in the esophagus. These burns occur because the battery may leak caustic materials or generate an electrical current.

Call the ISPPCC at **1-800-222-1222** if anyone swallows a button battery.

New Acetaminophen Concentration Available for Infants

Every maker of liquid acetaminophen (APAP) for infants is changing the concentration of APAP in their products. Infant products previously available had an APAP concentration of 80 mg per 0.8 ml. The new infant APAP products have been reformulated so that they are now the same as children's APAP liquid concentration (160mg / 5ml). Along with the new concentration comes a new measuring and dosing device. The old concentration came with a medicine dropper while the new concentration comes with a dosing syringe. The goal of using the same APAP concentration in both infant's and children's products is to make it easier for parents and caregivers to administer and thus avoid dosing errors.

As the transition between the differing concentrations progresses, caregivers may have both APAP concentrations available. The ISPPCC has identified two potential therapeutic errors during the transition time:

1. A health care provider recommends a dose of liquid infant APAP drops based on the "new" 160 mg / 5 ml concentration, but the caregiver uses the "old" 80 mg / 0.8 ml concentration – these children will receive more than a therapeutic dose and are at a risk of an acute or chronic overdose of APAP.
2. A health care provider recommends a dose of liquid infant APAP drops based on the "old" 80 mg / 0.8 ml concentration, but the caregiver uses the "new" 160 mg / 5 ml concentration – these children will receive less than a therapeutic dose of APAP.

During this time of product transition we urge all pharmacists, physicians and nurses to ensure parents and caregivers pay attention to which concentration they are buying and using. Parents and caregivers should be urged to consult their primary care provider or pharmacist if there are any questions or confusion during product purchase or administration.

Should an error occur during administration of any medicine, the ISPPCC is available to both health care providers and the general public for consultation 24 hours a day at 1-800-222-1222.

*Tammy Noble, RN, BSN
Certified Specialist in Poison Information*

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

The logo for Poison Help. It features the word "POISON" in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "Help" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the word "Help" is a red pill bottle with a white skull and crossbones symbol on its label. Below the word "Help" and the pill bottle is the phone number "1-800-222-1222" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Post and share this edition of **Poison Hotline** with your colleagues. Send comments or questions to Poison Hotline, 712-234-8775 (fax) or nobletf@ihs.org. To subscribe or unsubscribe from this distribution list, contact the Iowa Poison Center education office at 712-279-3717. Read past issues of **Poison Hotline** at www.iowapoison.org.