



Regional Center for Poison Control and Prevention

Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island



Ipecac Syrup Alert

The American Academy of Pediatrics announced its new policy on Poison Treatment in the Home at its annual meeting in New Orleans in November 2003. The AAP **no longer recommends ipecac in the home** as a treatment intervention.

The AAP recommends:

- Syrup of ipecac should no longer be used as a poison treatment.
- Pediatricians and other health care professionals should advise parents to safely dispose of the ipecac currently in their homes.
- Current research does **NOT** support the routine administration of activated charcoal in the home.
- Poison prevention should continue in the home and any childcare setting.
- The first step for any suspected poisoning...call your local Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

➤ Why is Ipecac Syrup no longer recommended?

- The effectiveness of ipecac syrup had never been proven
- Ipecac does not completely remove poison from the stomach
- It creates a false sense of security and is often misused and given without the advice of a health care professional
- Ipecac can do more harm than good – creating adverse effects including persistent vomiting, lethargy, and diarrhea – which can interfere with diagnosis and treatment in the hospital

➤ What should I do with the Ipecac Syrup I have in my home?

- Dispose of it in a safe way, such as flushing it down the toilet or sink

➤ Should I use activated charcoal instead?

- **DO NOT** use activated charcoal in the home. Research does not support the routine administration of activated charcoal in the home yet, as efficacy and safety have not yet been demonstrated.

If you suspect a poisoning, don't wait to see what happens, and don't try to treat it yourself. Call your poison control center right away.

24-HOUR POISON HOTLINE 1-800-222-1222

www.maripoisoncenter.com