

Out-of-Hospital Care Provider Policy

Title: Contacting Poison Control

Effective Date: January 10, 1999

Policy:

The Western New York Poison Control Center (WNYPCC) shall not be contacted by out-of-hospital care providers when caring for overdose, toxic exposure, and similar patients. On-line medical control should be contacted when caring for these patients as outlined by the *WREMS Adult and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Protocols*.

Procedure:

Staff answering calls at the WNYPCC are not physicians and, therefore, cannot provide medical direction to out-of-hospital care providers. Therefore, out-of-hospital care provider encountering overdose/toxic exposure patients should contact on-line medical control in accordance with the *WREMS Adult and Pediatric Advanced Life Support Protocols*. The MC physician can provide orders (including the appropriate destination facility) and answer most questions. In rare circumstances, the MC physician may elect to contact the WNYPCC for further advice.