

## Useful Resources for GPs

### Clinical information

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#### **TOXINZ database**

TOXINZ is an internet accessible poisons information database containing recommendations on the management of poisoning from over 190,000 listed chemical products, pharmaceuticals, plants and hazardous creatures. This resource is reviewed and added to accommodate more information. The information is referenced and updated regularly. An annual subscription is required to access the database, some practices and public health units have current subscriptions.

<http://www.toxinz.com>

#### **National Poisons Centre: 0800 POISON (0800 764 766)**

The National Poisons Centre (NPC) has a **free** 24-hour service providing information on the health effects of chemicals, drugs, poisonous plants, poisonous insects and marine animals. The telephone number is 0800 POISON (0800 764 766) (24 hours). TOXINZ is the NPC's internet database.

The main role of the National Poisons Centre is to provide advice to members of the public and health care professionals about acute poisoning situations. This can involve medicines, chemicals, hazardous creatures (e.g. spiders, snakes, jellyfish), or plants and fungi.

The permanent information specialist staff have expertise in toxicology, medical toxicology, chemistry and pharmacy. The NPC maintains TOXINZ, in addition to a comprehensive toxicology library and has access to a range of other databases and information sources, both nationally and internationally.

<http://www.poisons.co.nz/>

### Patient information and resources

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#### **From Health Ed**

Arsenic

<http://www.health.govt.nz/yourhealth-topics/environmental-health/arsenic-and-health>

Poisons around the home

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/poisons-around-home>

Lead (2007)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/lead-and-lead-poisoning>

Child Resistant Packaging (2002)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/child-resistant-packaging>

Asbestos (2007)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/all-about-asbestos>

Dioxin (2008)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/dioxin-and-health>

Agrichemical Spraydrift (1999 revised 2004)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/agrichemical-spraydrift>

Cleaning up mercury spills in your house (Ministry of Health website, no pdf)

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/cleaning-mercury-spills-your-house>

Safer and healthier gardening (including reducing the risks from chemicals)

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/safer-and-healthier-gardening>

#### **From National Poisons Centre website**

The information sheets most relevant to hazardous substances notifications are included here. Others including poisonous plants and mushrooms and child resistant packaging are available on the NPC website (<http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?c=20>).

Alcohol-based Hand Sanitisers - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=42&c=20>

BZP and other Piperazine-Based Party Drugs - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=21&c=20>  
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=40&c=20>  
Dishwasher Powders - A Corrosive Poison We Use Every Day - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=26&c=20>  
Household Cleaners - A Poison Common in Every Home - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=25&c=20>  
Solvent abuse: sniffing, huffing, bagging. Info for parents/caregivers - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=9>  
Potentially Dangerous Alternative Headlice Treatments - <http://www.poisons.co.nz/fact.php?f=5&c=20>

### From Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS)

Lead – for operators of shooting ranges

[http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Health%20advice%20and%20recommendations-Operators\\_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf](http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Health%20advice%20and%20recommendations-Operators_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf)

Lead – for indoor shooters

[http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Fact%20Sheet-Shooters\\_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf](http://www.arphs.govt.nz/Portals/0/Health%20Information/HealthyEnvironments/HasardousSubstances/Lead%20for%20shooters/Fact%20Sheet-Shooters_Version%2008%2011%2011.pdf)

### Legislation - Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

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Definition of a hazardous substance – Part 1 section 2

**hazardous substance** means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any substance—

- (a) with 1 or more of the following intrinsic properties:
  - (i) explosiveness:
  - (ii) flammability:
  - (iii) a capacity to oxidise:
  - (iv) corrosiveness:
  - (v) toxicity (including chronic toxicity):
  - (vi) ecotoxicity, with or without bioaccumulation; or
- (b) which on contact with air or water (other than air or water where the temperature or pressure has been artificially increased or decreased) generates a substance with any 1 or more of the properties specified in paragraph (a)

Requirement to notify –Section 143 2(A)

#### 143 Notification of hazardous substances injuries

- (1) In this section,—  
**hospital** means a hospital care institution within the meaning of [section 58\(4\)](#) of the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001  
**medical practitioner** means a health practitioner who is, or is deemed to be, registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand continued by [section 114\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 as a practitioner of the profession of medicine.
- (2) If any person, upon admission to a hospital, is found to be suffering from any injury caused by a hazardous substance, the person for the time being in charge of the hospital shall give notice of the injury to the Medical Officer of Health.
- (2A) If a medical practitioner finds that a person who is not admitted to a hospital is suffering from an injury caused by a hazardous substance, the medical practitioner must give notice of the injury to the Medical Officer of Health.
- (3) The Medical Officer of Health shall ensure that information about any injury notified in accordance with subsection (2) or subsection (2A) (not being information which identifies any individual person) is supplied to the Minister of Health.

Section 143(1): substituted, on 22 December 2005, by [section 36\(1\)](#) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Approvals and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2005 (2005 No 123).

Section 143(2A): inserted, on 22 December 2005, by [section 36\(2\)](#) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Approvals and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2005 (2005 No 123).

Section 143(3): amended, on 22 December 2005, by [section 36\(3\)](#) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Approvals and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2005 (2005 No 123).

Source: New Zealand Legislation website, [http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0030/latest/DLM381222.html?search=ta act H ac%40acur%40anif an%40bn%40rn 25 a&p=2](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0030/latest/DLM381222.html?search=ta+act+H+ac%40acur%40anif+an%40bn%40rn+25+a&p=2) . Cited on 9 January 2013.

## **Legislation - Health Act 1956**

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Requirement to notify lead absorption and poisoning arising from chemical contamination of the environment.

### **Schedule 2**

#### **Diseases notifiable to medical officer of health (other than notifiable infectious diseases)**

Schedule 2: replaced, on 26 November 1982, by section 6 of the Health Amendment Act 1982 (1982 No 34).

##### *Section A Conditions arising from occupation*

Schedule 2 Section A: amended, on 13 December 2012, by [clause 4](#) of the Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Order 2012 (SR 2012/339).

##### *Section B Other conditions*

Cysticercosis  
Decompression sickness  
Lead absorption equal to or in excess of 0.48  $\mu\text{mol}/\ell$   
Poisoning arising from chemical contamination of environment  
Taeniasis  
Trichinosis

Source: New Zealand Legislation website, <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1956/0065/latest/DLM308746.html> Cited on 9 January 2013.