

Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury and Lead Absorption Notifications via BPAC - Information for GPs

General Practitioners are now asked to notify cases of disease and injury caused by hazardous substances seen in primary care to the Medical Officer of Health. A short electronic form linked to MedTech32 and developed by *bestpractice* Decision Support (BPAC) is available to make notification as simple as possible.

Notification may result in a Public Health Unit (PHU) investigation of a particular event or, a collection of related cases may initiate the investigation of a particular substance in a region or nationwide. Data will be collated and analysed to inform policy and preventive actions.

1 What to notify

Hazardous substances disease or injury

This is a vast group of diagnoses; from children swallowing cleaning products or cosmetics, intentional overdoses with agrochemicals, carbon monoxide poisoning, illness caused by exposure to chemicals such as solvents or chlorine, contact dermatitis from chemicals, a fireworks burn or eye injury, or huffing of butane.

A hazardous substance is officially defined as anything that can explode, catch fire, oxidise, corrode, or be toxic to humans; this is set down in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. The same act was amended in 2005 requiring medical practitioners to notify cases to the Medical Officer of Health (section 143 2(A)).

Lead absorption

Notification of cases of lead absorption $\geq 0.48 \mu\text{mol/L}$ from non-occupational lead exposure is required under the Health Act 1956 (Schedule 2). The electronic form can also be used for these notifications. Please note that clinician notification is encouraged alongside direct laboratory notification.

Chemical contamination of the environment

Cases of disease or injury arising from chemical contamination of the environment eg. health effects following an agrochemical spray drift event, or skin effect following an oil spill event such as the MV Rena in 2011, are also required under the Health Act 1956 and can be notified using this form.

Occupational cases

Both occupational and non-occupational disease and injuries can be notified. However occupational notifications will not be followed up by the PHU. In some instances, the PHU may refer the notification to the Labour Group, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for investigation but this will only occur with the consent of the patient.

GPs are asked to notify cases on suspicion, except for lead absorption where a confirmed lead level is required.

2 Accessing the notification form

After logging on at www.bestpractice.org.nz or through MedTech32, look for 'Hazardous Substances & Lead Notifications' on the dashboard. Access to the form for users of other PMSs will be available later in 2013. Please phone your local PHU to notify cases where the electronic form is not available.

The screenshot shows the bestpractice software interface. At the top, there's a blue header bar with the text 'Welcome Test Pilot 2' and 'not you?'. On the right is the 'bestpractice' logo with the tagline 'DECISION SUPPORT FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS'. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Dashboard' (selected), 'Modules', 'Favourites' (highlighted in orange), and 'Recently Used'. Under 'Modules', there's a list of links: 'Parked Modules (2)', 'News', 'Settings', 'Send Feedback', 'Logout', and 'Disclaimer'. A vertical arrow points from the 'Hazardous Subs & Lead Notifications' link in this list towards the 'Favourites' tab. The main content area has three sections: 'Module List' on the left, 'Forms' in the center, and 'Clinical Toolkit / Education' on the right. The 'Module List' section contains a tree view of modules like 'Administration', 'Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting', etc., with 'Hazardous Subs & Lead Notifications' expanded and its sub-item 'Hazardous Subs & Lead Notifications' selected (indicated by a green checkmark). A second vertical arrow points from this green checkmark towards the 'Favourites' tab. The 'Forms' section lists various forms such as 'AUDIT', 'Care Plans', 'Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale', etc. The bottom of the screen shows a footer with the text 'bestpractice © 2005 - 2013' and 'Support Line: 0800 633 236'. At the very bottom, there's a callout box with the text: 'Select 'Hazardous Substances and Lead Notifications' from the Module list. Ticking the green box will add it to your favourites.'

Select 'Hazardous Substances and Lead Notifications' from the Module list. Ticking the green box will add it to your favourites.

3 Completing the notification

The notification form can be completed at the time of consultation or for lead absorption, when results are confirmed. If necessary, 'Park' while awaiting further information.

The form has three tabs: 'Exposure Event' and 'Assessment', and Notifier/Patient Details (which is prepopulated from MedTech).

Exposure Event tab

Exposure Event Tab: enter the details of the exposure here.

Assessment tab: click here to access the next tab.

Send notification to Medical Officer of Health at: Public Health South

Choose which Public Health Unit to send the notification to, based on the patient's address. The default will be based on your practice address

Exposure Event

Exposure route: Ingestion Inhalation Skin contact Eye contact

Date exposure began: OR Month/Year OR Unknown

Exposure length: < 1 day between 1 day & 1 month ≥ 1 month Unknown

Place of exposure: Home Workplace School/preschool
 Public place Unknown Other

Specify Other:

Intent: Unintentional Intentional Unknown

Is this case known to be linked to other cases of the same exposure event?: Yes No

Substance

Substance category(s): Household chemical Agrichemical Industrial chemical
 Fireworks/explosive Lead Unknown
 Other

Household: eg. cosmetic, dishwashing powder, fumigants / Industrial: eg. solvent, chlorine
Agrichemical: eg. pesticide, animal remedies, spraydrift / Other: eg. asbestos, mercury, arsenic

Specify Other:

Lead exposure

Did you obtain a whole blood lead specimen for this lead exposure event?: Yes No

Whole blood lead concentration - µmol/L: 26/09/2012 9

Main source of lead exposure: Occupational Close contact with person whose occupation involves lead exposure Paint
 Hobby Traditional medicine Drinking water Other

Enrolled in workplace lead monitoring: Yes No Unknown

Was exposure event spraydrift: Yes No

Substance name (complete at least 1 field)

Chemical name e.g. sodium hypochlorite	Product name Janola	Common name bleach	Unknown
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Enter the substance name in at least one field. Where multiple substances are involved click on the plus sign to enter further names.

If waiting on further information, park the notification form. Parked forms can be accessed later from the BPAC dashboard.

Exposure Event **Assessment** **Notifier / Patient Details**

Refresh **Park** **Cancel** **Submit**

Assessment tab

Diagnosis: if the clinical findings are **not** consistent with the exposure select no injury/ disease. Alternatively, select other and provide further detail in text box.

Hazardous Substances Disease & Injury Reporting Tool

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Assessment

Systems affected (tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Central nervous system <input type="checkbox"/> Cardiovascular <input type="checkbox"/> Musculoskeletal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Eye <input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological	<input type="checkbox"/> Skin <input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal <input type="checkbox"/> Nil
Specify Other			
Symptoms / signs	<input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms only <input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning <input type="checkbox"/> No injury/disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms and signs <input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive burn	<input type="checkbox"/> No signs or symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive/traumatic damage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Diagnosis - actual or suspected exposure	Poisoning: plausible exposure, with consistent symptoms Corrosive burn: direct skin contact with hazardous substance		
Specify Other			
Treatment required	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> None requested	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Pending <input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed	
Lab tests requested			
Include Inbox items?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Date	Title	Who	
26/09/2012	Chi Sendaway	Dr Sam Entwistle	
28/06/2012	Complete Blood Count	Dr Sam Entwistle	
28/06/2012	Hba1C	Dr Sam Entwistle	
Selected Results			
Referral	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency department <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Specify Other			
Additional Information			

Exposure Event **Assessment** **Notifier / Patient Details**

If there are **relevant lab results**, include these by selecting from your inbox.

Any additional information on case or substance can be entered here.

Click **submit** to send completed form to the Medical Officer of Health.

Notifier/Patient Details tab

Data will be entered directly from the PMS.

After submitting the form a version will be saved in your outbox for future reference.

4 Feedback or queries

If you have questions regarding the patient or notification, please contact your local PHU. If you have feedback or questions regarding the BPAC system this can be entered using the 'Send Feedback' link in the BPAC dashboard, or by calling 0800 633236.