

Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool via BPAC - Information for GPs

General Practitioners are 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 developed by *bestpractice* Decision Support (BPAC) linked to MedTech, MyPractice, Profile and Indici practice management systems (PMSs) is available to make notification as simple as possible.

Notification may result in a Public Health Unit (PHU) investigation of a case, or a number of related cases may initiate the investigation of a particular substance in a region or nationwide. Notification data are collated and analysed to inform policy and preventive actions.

See the short video *Video walkthrough for GPs* at <https://vimeo.com/359445622> or under the Resources tab of the Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT) for a summary of how to use the HSDIRT.

1 What to notify

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

Hazardous substances disease or injury

This is a vast group of diagnoses; from children ingesting cleaning products or cosmetics, 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 ≥ 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

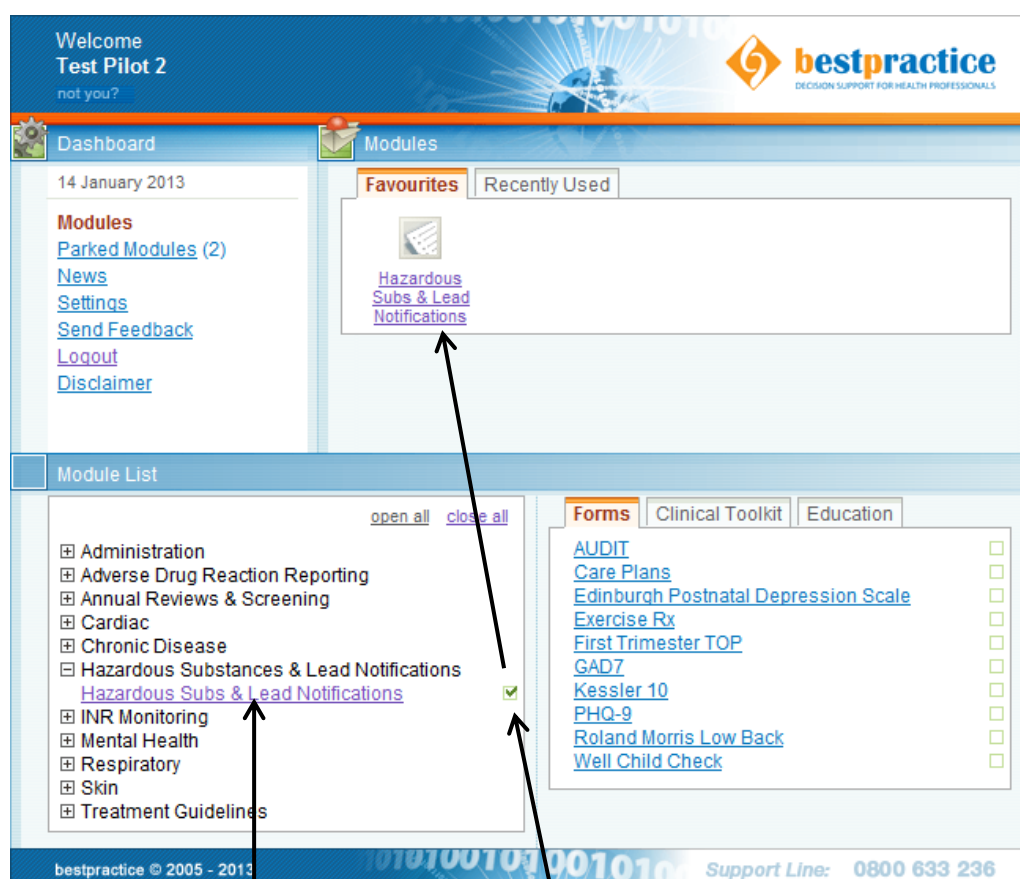
Cases of disease or injury arising from chemical contamination of the environment (eg. health effects following an agrichemical spray drift event, unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning) are also required under the Health Act 1956 and can be notified using this form.

Occupational cases

Both occupational and non-occupational disease and injuries can be notified. However, occupational notifications will not be followed up by the PHU. The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (section 199) requires the medical officer of health to notify WorkSafe of notifications that are considered to be work-related.

2 Accessing the notification form

After logging on at <https://www.bestpractice.org.nz> or through the PMS, look for 'Hazardous Substances & Lead Notifications' on the dashboard. Please phone your local PHU to notify cases where the electronic form is not available.



The screenshot shows the Best Practice website dashboard. At the top, there is a 'Welcome Test Pilot 2 not you?' message and the Best Practice logo. Below this is a 'Dashboard' section with a date of '14 January 2013' and a 'Modules' section. The 'Modules' section has two tabs: 'Favourites' and 'Recently Used'. Under 'Favourites', there is a link for 'Hazardous Subs & Lead Notifications'. Below the 'Modules' section is a 'Module List' section. In the 'Module List', there is a list of modules with checkboxes. The 'Hazardous Substances & Lead Notifications' module is checked, and a green box is visible next to it. To the right of the 'Module List' is a 'Forms' section with a list of forms and checkboxes. The 'Hazardous Substances & Lead Notifications' module is also listed in the 'Forms' section. Arrows point from the 'Hazardous Subs & Lead Notifications' link in the 'Favourites' section and the checked box in the 'Module List' to a text box below the screenshot.

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 the PMS).

Exposure Event tab

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

Assessment tab: click here to access the next tab.



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Exposure Event | Assessment | Notifier / Patient Details

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

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

Exposure Event | Assessment | Notifier / Patient Details

Choose which Public Health Unit to **send the notification to**, based on the patient's address (see Appendix 2). The default will be based on your practice address.

If **workplace** is selected, enter the patient's current occupation. This will not be written back to the PMS.

If the substance is **lead**, include the blood lead result from your inbox

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.

Refresh | Park | Cancel | Submit

Assessment tab

Hazardous Substances Disease & Injury Reporting Tool

Exposure Event
Assessment
Notifier / Patient Details

Systems affected (tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Central nervous system	<input type="checkbox"/> Eye	<input type="checkbox"/> Skin
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiovascular	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/> Musculoskeletal	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychological	<input type="checkbox"/> Nil
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Specify Other

Symptoms / signs

<input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms only	<input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms and signs	<input type="checkbox"/> No signs or symptoms
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Diagnosis - actual or suspected exposure

<input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive burn	<input type="checkbox"/> Explosive/traumatic damage
<input type="checkbox"/> No injury/disease		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Poisoning: plausible exposure, with consistent symptoms
Corrosive burn: direct skin contact with hazardous substance

Specify Other

Treatment required Yes No

Lab tests requested None requested Pending Confirmed

Include Inbox items?

Date	Title	Who
<input type="checkbox"/> 26/09/2012	Chi Sendaway	Dr Sam Entwistle
<input type="checkbox"/> 28/06/2012	Complete Blood Count	Dr Sam Entwistle
<input type="checkbox"/> 28/06/2012	Hba1C	Dr Sam Entwistle

Selected Results

Referral Yes No Emergency department Specialist Other

Specify Other

Additional Information

Exposure Event
Assessment
Notifier / Patient Details

Refresh
Park
Cancel
Submit

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.

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 Resources

See the short video *Video walkthrough for GPs* under the Resources tab for a summary of how to use the HSDIRT.

The screenshot displays the 'Hazardous Substances Disease & Injury Reporting Tool' interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the tool's name and the 'bestpractice' logo. Below the header, there are four tabs: 'Exposure Event', 'Assessment', 'Notifier / Patient Details', and 'Resources'. The 'Resources' tab is selected. Under this tab, there are two columns of links. The left column is titled 'GP Information' and includes links for 'Frequently Asked Questions', 'Users Guide for GPs (short)', 'Users Guide for GPs', 'Useful resources for GPs', 'Legislation', and 'Video walkthrough for GPs'. The right column is titled 'PHU Information' and includes links for 'Users Guide for PHUs', 'Useful resources for PHUs', 'Video walkthrough for PHUs', and 'HSDIRT Publications'. The 'Video walkthrough for GPs' and 'Video walkthrough for PHUs' links are highlighted with red boxes. At the bottom of the interface, there are four buttons: 'Refresh', 'Park', 'Cancel', and 'Submit'.

5 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 software or access to the form these can be entered using the 'Send Feedback' link in the BPAC dashboard, or call 0800 633236.