

CARIBBEAN POISON INFORMATION NETWORK (CARPIN)

Background

The Regional Nerve Centre of the Caribbean Poison Information Network, a multisectorial initiative, is located in the Drug Information Service (DIS) in the Faculty of Health and Applied Science on the ground floor. The initiative is the result of over five (5) years of collaboration among several stakeholders in the health and education sectors. The network, managed by a committee of representatives from several entities, was officially launched on Friday, May 13, 2005 during the inaugural Poison Prevention Week.

CARPIN'S Mission is to:

- Make poison information readily available
- Create general awareness of poisoning and the associated dangers and how to manage poison cases.

The Network aims at setting up Sentinel sites through out Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean region where data will be collected on incidences of poisoning and forwarded to the nerve centre. It is designed to attract participants and organizations, nationally, regionally and internationally, through these Sentinel sites that will report, disseminate information and participate in other activities.

Through a central database, public and private sector entities in the Caribbean can easily access information from data gathering and research.

The general public, health and education sectors, Governments among others will benefit. Lives will be saved and healthcare costs reduced.

Achievements

- ✓ Funding secured for three (3) years
- ✓ Six (6) Island States have made commitment to participate in the initiative
- ✓ Participation in public education Expo.
- ✓ Inaugural Poison Prevention Week May 9- 13, 2005- schools poster competition, community outreach/ education, seminar and Network launch.
- ✓ Work initiated with schools
- ✓ Nerve Center operations have begun with link to University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI).
- ✓ Nerve Center approved as an Internship site for Pharmacy Interns
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Hospitals, Health Centers and Pharmacies have been targeted as Sentinel Sites
- ✓ Volunteers have committed to work with CARPIN

The activities at the nerve centre include:

- Responding to queries on poisonings.
- Data gathering, analysis and generation of reports.
- Dissemination of information to the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), the public, governments and other users.
- Generation of publications on issues related to poisoning.
- Carrying out research.
- Initiation of education and training programmes.

The nerve centre will provide services during the following hours:

Monday to Thursday

9:00am-6:00pm

Friday

9:00am-4:00pm

The services will be transferred to the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) Accident and Emergency department after 6:00pm on weekdays, weekends and holidays.

CARPIN provides an opportunity for national and regional collaboration among a wide cross section of professionals, individuals and organizations. These include: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, teachers, farmers, researchers, policymakers, agriculturalists, public and private sector hospitals, pharmacies, medical centers, nursing homes, educational institutions, day care centers medical laboratories, health centers and the list goes on.

CARPIN's Regional Coordinating Network

1. University of Technology, Jamaica (Utech)
2. National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)
3. Ministry of Health (MOH)
4. University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI)
5. University of the West Indies (UWI)
6. Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP)
7. Environmental Health Foundation (EHF)
8. Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ)
9. Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ)

CARPIN..... "PROTECTING AGAINST POISONINGS"

Contact: Caribbean Poison Information Network.

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Contact UHWI Emergency Division

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