



Palmetto Poison Center

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Taking medications responsibly

Palmetto Poison Center has information on how to keep your family safe

The Palmetto Poison Center would like to remind everyone to be safe when taking medications.

A recent report concludes that home medication errors have resulted in increased deaths. “We want people to be safe when taking medication,” states Dr. Jill Michels, a Clinical Pharmacist and Director of the Palmetto Poison Center at the University of South Carolina. “The Poison Center receives multiple calls every day about medication errors from homes throughout South Carolina. Simple steps could avoid a majority of those calls.” Some common medication errors reported to the Poison Center include taking too much because dosing directions were not followed, ingesting the wrong medication, and taking medication doses too close together.

Safety tips to avoid common errors:

- Always read the label and follow directions.
- Be sure to use a medication dosing spoon when taking liquid medications.
- Do not take medication that is not prescribed to you.
- Ask a physician or pharmacist about possible drug interactions before taking a new medication.
- If you miss a dose, do not double up on the next dose.

The Palmetto Poison Center is staffed by trained nurses and pharmacists who can provide treatment information when a medication error has occurred. Additionally, the Palmetto Poison Center provides poison prevention education around the state to inform parents and youngsters not only about the dangers of household poisonings, but also outdoor exposure to poisonous agents. From medication errors to insect bites, poisonous plants, pesticides and other household chemicals, the Palmetto Poison Center can provide expert advice. The Center provides services to over 4 million residents in all 46 counties of South Carolina. Services are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To contact the Palmetto Poison Center, call 1-800-222-1222.