



First aid fact sheet

Poisoning

Poisons Information Centre **13 11 26**



- DO NOT induce vomiting, unless you have been told to do so by the Poisons Information Centre.
- DO NOT give the patient anything to eat or drink.
- Wash substances off the face and around the mouth with water.

Signs and symptoms

Signs and symptoms depend on the type of poison, and can include:

- bite or injection marks, with or without local swelling
- burns around and inside the mouth or on the tongue
- smell of fumes
- odours on the breath
- burning pain from mouth to stomach
- nausea, vomiting
- abdominal pain
- difficulty in breathing
- tight feeling in chest
- headache
- ringing in ears
- blurred vision
- blue lips, face, earlobes, fingernails
- drowsiness
- loss of consciousness
- seizures.

What to do

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Call triple zero (000) for fire services if the air is contaminated with smoke or gas.
- 4 Reassure the patient.
- 5 Find out what sort of poison is involved, if possible, and record the information for medical personnel.
- 6 Call the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26, and follow their advice.
- 7 If the patient is becoming drowsy, place them in the recovery position and continue to check their airway and breathing regularly.
- 8 Send any vomit, containers and suicide notes with the patient to hospital.

In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)

DRSABCD Danger ▶ Response ▶ Send for help ▶ Airway ▶ Breathing ▶ CPR ▶ Defibrillation

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