


Module 4


Common Poisons

Objective: To learn basic facts about potential poisons and poison prevention tips.



Module 4



Unit 1: Medicines



Module 4

Unit 1: Medicines

- **About 90% of the poisonings reported to the GPC involve medicines**
- Medicine can be dangerous if used incorrectly or in the wrong amount



Module 4 Unit 1: Medicines

• The most common medications reported to the GPC include:

- Analgesics
- Sedative/Hypnotics/
Antipsychotics
- Antimicrobials
- Cardiovascular Drugs
- Antidepressants
- Antihistamines
- Cold & Cough
Preparations
- Muscle Relaxants
- Gastrointestinal
Preparations



Module 4 Unit 1: Medicines

• Common causes of medication poisoning:

- Dosing Errors
 - Taking too much
 - Taking within a close time frame
 - Taking the wrong medicine
 - Administering the medicine the wrong way
- Drug Interactions
- Adverse reaction



Module 4 Unit 1: Medicines

• Tips to prevent medication poisoning:

- **Store medicine in a locked cabinet out of reach**
- Keep medicine in the original container
- Use child resistant packaging and replace caps tightly
- Throw away expired or leftover medicines
- Always read the label first
- Ask your doctor or pharmacists about any interactions



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Unit 1: Medicines

- Tell your doctor about any medications including vitamins that you are taking
- Never take medicine that belongs to someone else
- Make note of the time, date, and drug(s) that are taken, especially if you are taking more than one medication
- If you forget to take or give medicine at the correct time, do not double dose
- Do not take or give medicine in the dark, without your glasses on, or while you are sleepy



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Unit 1: Medicines

- Never call medicine candy
- Never give or take extra medicine if some gets spilled
- Use the correct measure device



Module 4

Unit 2: Household Products



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Unit 2: Household Products

- Some of the most common household and personal care products can be very hazardous
- **Children are often attracted to the bright colors, interesting containers and sweet-smell of household products**
 - Do not rely on the smell or taste of a household product to deter children
- Often, household products are mistaken for something that is good to eat or drink.
 - For example, a liquid cleaner may be mistaken for a juice



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Unit 2: Household Products

- Household products come in many shapes, sizes and colors
- Liquids, powders, granules, sprays and aerosols can easily enter the body through the mouth, eyes, nose and skin



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Unit 2: Household Products

- Household products can include:
 - Cleaning substances
 - Laundry products
 - Cosmetics
 - Garden supplies
 - Automotive products
 - Pesticides
 - Toys
 - Fuels
 - Paints
 - Pool products
- A more comprehensive list of common poisonous household products is located in the resource center.



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Unit 2: Household Products

- Tips to prevent household product poisoning:
 - **Household cleaners, pesticides, auto products, garage products should be locked up and out of reach**
 - Store chemicals and household products in their original containers
 - Do not reuse empty household containers
 - Post the number to the GPC around your house and program it in your cell phone, 1-800-222-1222



Module 4

Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide



Module 4

Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can kill a person in minutes.
- It is produced wherever fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned.
- If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amount of CO that is produced is harmless.



Module 4 Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- CO is one of the leading causes of poisoning death in the United States.
- Early symptoms of CO poisoning can mimic the flu or other illnesses.
- These symptoms may include:
 - fatigue • headache • difficulty breathing • fainting
 - dizziness • vomiting • confusion



Module 4 Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- CO poisoning may lead to unconsciousness and death.
- CO gas can be especially dangerous for pregnant women and their unborn babies, infants and people with anemia and a history of heart disease.



Module 4 Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- **The most common sources of CO:**
 - Oil, wood or gas furnaces
 - **Space heaters (kerosene heaters)**
 - Gas or oil water heaters
 - Gas stoves
 - Gas dryers
 - **Fireplaces and wood stoves**
 - Charcoal grills
 - **Automobiles**
 - Lawn mowers and other gas powered lawn equipment



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Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- Tips to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:
 - Have fuel-burning appliances, venting and chimney systems in your home inspected by a professional technician every year
 - Install and use an exhaust fan vented to the outside over gas stoves
 - Do not use an oven or gas range to heat your home
 - Do not let the fireplace or space heater run while you are sleeping



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Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- Open flues when fireplaces are in use
- Never use charcoal grills inside your home, garage or inside a tent; only use in a well-ventilated area
- Never leave an automobile engine running in a garage, even if the garage door to the outside is open - Fumes can build up quickly
- Do not let the fireplace or space heater run while you are sleeping



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Unit 3: Carbon Monoxide

- Have the exhaust system in your automobiles inspected for possible leaks.
- Do not use any gasoline-powered engines, such as mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws, small engines or generators in enclosed spaces
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector near the sleeping areas in your home
- Call the GPC at 1-800-222-1222 for more information



Module 4

Unit 4: Food Poisoning



Module 4

Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Food poisoning occurs when food contaminated by bacteria, parasite or virus is eaten.
- Symptoms include upset stomach, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and dehydration.
 - Symptoms range from mild to serious.



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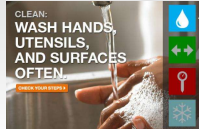
Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Tips to Prevent Food Poisoning:
 - Check the expiration dates on all foods
 - Do not use canned goods with bulges, leaks, or dents
 - Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling food



Module 4 Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Keep raw foods separate from ready to eat foods
- Wash utensils and cutting boards after they have been used
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly
- Use one plate for raw meat and another plate after the meat is cooked



Module 4 Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Refrigerate or freeze perishable food within two hours after buying or preparing.
 - If room temperature is above 90°F, refrigerate perishable food within one hour.
- Set refrigerator temperature to 40°F or below. The freezer should be kept at 0°F.



Module 4 Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Defrost foods safely, using one of the following methods:

- In the refrigerator
- In the microwave



- In cold water



Module 4
Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Cook meat, poultry and seafood thoroughly.
- Throw out any leftovers that have been at room temperature for more than two hours or in hot weather for more than one hour
 - If hot food must be out for longer than two hours, use warming trays or slow cookers to keep the food hot
 - If cold food must be out for longer than two hours, use a cooler or ice bucket



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Unit 4: Food Poisoning

- Do not eat any food you are unsure about, when in doubt, throw it out
- Pregnant women, young children, older adults and people with weakened immune system should take extra precautions
- Call the GPC for more information at 1-800-222-1222



Module 4
Unit 5: Lead Poisoning



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Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

- Lead poisoning is a disease caused most often by eating lead paint chips or breathing or eating lead dust.
- Lead is especially harmful to infants and children aged 6 years and younger because their small bodies absorb lead more easily.
 - Lead poisoning can slow a child's development and cause learning and behavior problems.
 - Small amounts of lead can also damage a child's brain, kidney and stomach.



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Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

- Some Possible Sources of Lead:
 - Peeling or chipping paint in homes built before 1978
 - Dust from sanding or removing old paint and wallpaper
 - Contaminated soil from a nearby industry that uses lead
 - Soil around an older home that has chipping outside paint
 - Contaminated clothing from working in a lead industry or with lead products



Module 4

Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

- Old lead pipes
- Some imported pottery, candies, canned foods and mini-blinds
- Lead glazed ceramic, china and leaded crystal glassware
- Inexpensive costume jewelry



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Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

Tips to Prevent Lead Poisoning:

- Clean up chipping or peeling paint
- Clean up paint chips and lead dust on window sills and on the floor near windows, doorways and woodwork
- Have paint checked by an environmentalist if you are remodeling a home built before 1978
- Shower and change clothes before going home after working with lead on your job or hobby



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Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

- Store and wash work clothes separately
- Wash children's toys often
- Throw away lead-painted toys or clothes
- Never store food in open cans or pottery
- Buy pottery with lead-free glazes
- Wash children's hands before they eat
- Eat foods high in iron and calcium which can help to remove lead from the body easier



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Unit 5: Lead Poisoning

- Run cold water for a few minutes before using it for cooking or drinking
- Call the GPC for more information (1-800-222-1222)



Module 4

Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations



Module 4

Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

- Most people who are stung or bitten by an insect, spider, snake or fish will have redness, itching, swelling, and some pain around the site.
- Some people are allergic to stings and bites and may experience hives, rash, itching palms and feet, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and difficulty breathing.
- If you are stung and have any of these reactions, go to the nearest hospital or doctor right away.



Module 4

Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

- The following is a list of the most common insects, spiders, snakes and fish that can cause poisoning:

Insects

- Bees
- Fire Ants
- Hornets
- Saddleback Caterpillars



- Scorpions
- Ticks
- Wasps
- Yellow Jackets



Module 4 Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

Spiders

- Black Widow
- Brown Recluse



Fish

- Catfish
- Jellyfish/Portuguese Man-of-War
- Stingrays



Module 4 Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

Snakes

- Copperhead
- Coral Snake
- Cottonmouth/Water Moccasin
- Eastern Diamond Back
- Pygmy Rattle Snake
- Timber Rattle Snake



Module 4 Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

Tips to Prevent Bites and Envenomations Poisoning:

- Shake out clothing, shoes, and hats before wearing
- Wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and shoes
- Wear light-colored clothing outdoors
- Avoid walking in tall bushes or shrubs
- Apply insect repellent
- Do not reach into rocky cracks, under logs or large rocks



Module 4

Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

- Do not touch or tease a snake
- Check your body and hair for ticks
- Protect pets by using flea collars or tick spray
- Talk to your veterinarian about getting your pets vaccinated against Lyme disease
- Get rid of clutter in basements, closets, attics and garages
- Dust and vacuum around windows, corners, under furniture and in storage areas



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Unit 6: Bites and Envenomations

- Avoid jellyfish at all times
- When swimming in the ocean, splash around when you first get in to scare stingrays away
- Program the GPC phone number in your cell phone: 1-800-222-1222



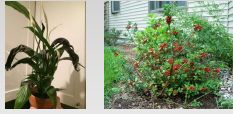
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Unit 7: Plants



Module 4 Unit 7: Plants

- Plants are a common cause of poisoning.
- Both indoor and outdoor plants can be poisonous


































- Plants, flowers, and mushrooms are often beautiful to look at but many are poisonous.
- In some cases only part of a plant or flower is poisonous.



Module 4 Unit 7: Plants

This table lists common plants known to be toxic when ingested. While this is not a complete list, it contains many plants commonly found in home landscapes in Georgia.

	Autumn Crocus		Ammoniac
	Azalea / Rhododendron		Larkspur
	Bulbocorne / Dewberry / Nightshade		Lily of the Valley
	Birch Tree		Mistletoe
	Bird of Paradise		Mullein
	Bittersweet / Woody Nightshade		Morning Glory (seeds)
	Calladium / Dieffenbachia		Peace Lily
	Castor Oil Plant / Castor Bean		Poison Hemlock
	Cherry Laurel / Cops		Poinsettia / Poinsettia
	Choke Cherry / Chokeberry		Poppo
	Chestnut (leaves / Cops)		Red Budsage / Horse Chestnut
	Dwarf Ivy / Ardisia		Water Hyacinth
	English Ivy / Toxic Cane Elder (bark, shoots, leaves, roots, berries, berries)		Wild Mushrooms
	Diplazium		Yew
	Eggplant / Star / Rhododendron		
	Fogglow		
	Holly (berries, leaves)		



Module 4 Unit 7: Plants

Tips to Prevent Plant Poisoning:

- Know the names of all the plants in your home/yard
- Label all plants with their names
- Keep house plants, seeds, and bulbs out of reach of children and pets
- Do not eat wild plants or mushrooms
- Remove mushrooms growing in your yard
- Teach children to never put any part of a plant into their mouths
- If you suspect a plant poisoning, remove any plant material from the victim's mouth and call the GPC



Module 4

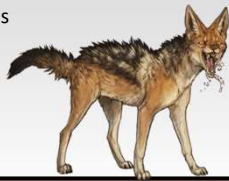
Unit 8: Rabies



Module 4

Unit 8: Rabies

- Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus
- The rabies virus is found in the saliva and brain tissue of infected (rabid) animals
- The rabies virus does not live in the blood of animals



Module 4

Unit 8: Rabies

- Rabies can be spread from animal to animal, or animal to human
- Rabies is spread when the saliva or brain tissue of an infected (rabid) animal gets in the mouth, the eyes, or an open cut
- Rabies is most often spread to animals and humans through a bite from an infected animal



Module 4 Unit 8: Rabies

- Rabies is carried mainly by wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats



- Rabid animals may act tame, or may display strange or unusual behavior such as aggressiveness, avoiding food and water, foaming at the mouth, or difficulty moving



Module 4 Unit 8: Rabies

- Stay away from any strange animals, especially wildlife
- Report any unusual acting animal to your County Animal Control office
- If another animal bites your pet call your County Animal Control office or your Veterinarian right away
- If you are bitten by an animal, wash the area with warm, soapy water and call the GPC immediately



Module 4 Unit 8: Rabies

Tips to Prevent Rabies:

- Keep pet's rabies shots up-to-date
- Keep pets indoors, in a fenced yard, or on a leash
- Do not leave uncovered garbage or pet food outside
- Stay away from wild, sick, hurt, or dead animals
- Do not keep wild animals
- Teach kids not to go near, tease, or play with wild animals
- Call the GPC with any rabies questions