Safe kids Healthy kids Happy kids

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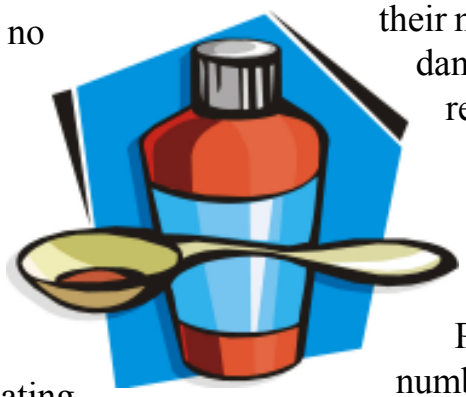
Syrup of Ipecac No Longer Used

Syrup of ipecac is a home treatment medicine for poisoning. It should no longer be used routinely for children. **Recent research shows no benefits.** Most hospital emergency rooms use activated charcoal.



Studies show that ipecac is not always given properly by parents. Some people who have eating disorders actually use ipecac improperly. Abuse and misuse of ipecac can lead to heart problems and even death.

Prevention is the best way to keep children safe from accidental poisoning. The most dangerous potential poisons in the home are:

- Medicines (iron medicines are a frequent problem)
- Cleaning products
- Antifreeze
- Windshield washer fluid
- Pesticides
- Furniture polish
- Gasoline, kerosene, lamp oil.

Children like to put things into their mouths. Keep all dangerous items out of their reach. Lock them up or put items in a place where children cannot reach.

Keep the Illinois Poison Control Center's number — 1-800-222-1222 — near or on your phone.

Call this number

- to ask about poisons or
- if you think your child has swallowed a harmful substance.

If your child is not breathing, unconscious or having convulsions, call 9-1-1.

For more information on ipecac or poisoning, log onto the American Academy of Pediatrics webpage at www.aap.org or call the Carol Jo Vecchie Women's and Children's Center at St. John's Hospital — 535-3696.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. , 7 days a week.

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