

TITLE: Specialist in Poison Information-Pharmacist

DEPARTMENT: Call Center

REPORTS TO: Managing Director

SALARY: TBD

JOB PURPOSE:

Committed to providing overall toxicological emergency call room support at the Washington Poison Center (WAPC) by delivering and advancing high-quality consultative services available 24/7/365 for Washington State. Under the direction of the WAPC administration team, ensures the WAPC is a fully accredited poison center operating in compliance with nationally recognized AAPCC standards. Respond to inquiries from the general public and from health care professionals and provide pharmacological consultation to members of the Poison Center's interdisciplinary team. Conduct assessments utilizing knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, mathematics, and drug dosage forms, along with basic sciences underlying pharmacy, such as chemistry, biology and physics. Provide input to team members in the use of pharmaceuticals in the management of poisoned patients. Participate in the development of continuing education programs, new staff orientation training modules, quality assurance processes, policies and procedures, and scientific research.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Respond to poison exposure and informational calls utilizing considerable independent judgment to interpret and adapt guidelines provided in the center's policies and procedures to determine appropriate course of action.
- 2) Research electronic and hard copy medical literature as needed to ensure optimal case management.
- 3) Under Medical Director's guidance, help develop and conduct ongoing quality assurance studies, and utilize data to create guideline changes and to identify staff training needs.
- 4) Record poisoning history of cases, assess poisoning risk accounting for pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic variations in drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination.
- 5) Act consistently with all center policy, procedures and case management guidelines.
- 6) Maintain accurate and complete patient records and data collection information according to AAPCC standards.
- 7) Contribute to research studies including study contracts, Government agency contracts, and other Poison Center projects as assigned by Managing Director.
- 8) Assure professional/personal growth through active involvement in center education and staff development offerings i.e. case conference, in-services, etc.
- 9) Recognize the need to request a second opinion regarding case management from another SPI or the on-call toxicologist and the need to escalate the management of the case to a staff member with more experience and expertise.
- 10) Assist in training to new staff members promoting growth, while ensuring positive therapeutic outcomes.
- 11) Provide poison information and assist with proper utilization of community social and health care resources.
- 12) Share clinical expertise with health care team in regards to poison management. Consistently apply and share clinical pharmacy knowledge with center team.
- 13) Active participation in WAPC workgroups and other special activities as requested by the Managing Director.

- 14) Participate in emergency preparedness functions of the poison center including but not limited to participation in full-scale exercises, ability to be reached via phone/email in a timely manner, and assist in the response activities of the poison center during public health emergencies.
- 15) Actively participates in continuous quality improvement of the Poison Center's cases through coding and documentation review as assigned by the Quality Management Work group of the Washington Poison Center.
- 16) Actively participates in study contracts and grants at the Poison Center as assigned by the Managing Director.
- 17) Demonstrates appropriate time management skills to complete job responsibilities including completion of case documentation within scheduled work hours.
- 18) Ensure patient's safety and privacy; maintain confidentiality of medical records in accordance with HIPAA standards.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Licensed pharmacist from an accredited pharmacy school with an active state license (must acquire active Washington state pharmacy license within 6 months of employment).
- Current knowledge of pharmacy and pharmacological principles including academic interest and background, as well as quality improvement models, preferably involved in treatment of poisoned patients
- Two years of pharmacy experience
- Knowledge of human growth and development to modify care to the age and development status of the infant, toddler, school-age child, adolescent, adult, geriatric or disabled patient, according to the age/development focus of the Poison Center
- Demonstrate proficient use of technology and computers and ability to troubleshoot basic technology problems.
- Excellent verbal & written communication, decision making skills, customer service, and collaboration skills
- Ability to maintain good public relations
- Good organizational skills and attention to detail
- Evidence of personal and professional growth through continuing education
- Successful completion of the Poison Center Math Exam within three months of hire date
- Successful completion of AAPCC SPI Certification Exam within 3 full years of qualifying to take the exam
- Ability to work in a self-managed, self-directed capacity with minimal supervision
- Attendance and participation in all staff meetings throughout the year.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to work in office setting with multiple types of electronic equipment
- Ability to type legibly and accurately utilizing a computer keyboard and mouse to complete case records, and to access computerized reference sources
- Operate phone, speak English fluently and clearly and hear effectively on phone
- Ability to read reference materials and computer display monitors
- Ability to reach and grasp reference books at various heights
- Ability to sit for shifts that can extend to ten or twelve hours (including mandated breaks)
- Ability to work remotely if required and/or flexible work schedules
- Ability to multi-task, maintain focus, professionalism, and composure in a distracting work environment