



November 1, 2010

Dear Community Health Center:

We would like to make you aware of the HRSA-funded toll-free Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222), which connects callers to one of the Florida Poison Information Centers in Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa. The service is free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Specially trained nurses, pharmacists and other poison experts staff the hotline to provide treatment recommendations in the event of a possible poison exposure. Callers do not need to be Florida residents or U.S. citizens; interpretation services are available in 161 languages.

As most cases of poisoning can be treated at home, the Poison Help line may help your patients avoid an unnecessary trip to the hospital or clinic. We hope that you will also take advantage of the Florida Poison Information Centers' expertise as well. Approximately twenty five percent of calls to poison centers are from health professionals who call to get expert advice on how to treat poisonings. Poison centers are also available to provide poison prevention education programs.

As an important provider of healthcare services to your community, please help us promote this valuable and free resource. For more information about the national Poison Help campaign please visit www.PoisonHelp.hrsa.gov. For more information about the Florida Poison Information Centers visit www.fpicn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elisa H. Gladstone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elisa H. Gladstone, MPH
Director
Poison Control Program