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Poison Information Query

Practical 7 - Clinical pharmacy case practical

Aim

To prepare a structured poison-information response for a fictional exposure.

Principle

Exposure assessment depends on exact substance, amount, route, timing, symptoms, age and co-exposures. Emergency stabilisation and specialist poison advice take priority over an academic calculation.

Materials and Requirements

- Fictional or approved de-identified case, medicine chart and laboratory record
- Current local policy, relevant product information and clinical guidance
- Pharmaceutical-care and communication worksheet
- Approved method or teaching-data pack and a dated record sheet

Procedure

1. Define the preparation or dataset, study question and method version. Record identities, units and the criteria to be used before examining the outcome.
2. Identify the question, patient-specific information and missing data. Use the supplied fictional record; do not create a prescription or administer a preparation.
3. Obtain the product identity and concentration, exposure history, symptoms and current location from the supplied case.
4. Identify urgent danger signs and document immediate referral to emergency services and the appropriate poison centre through the local pathway.
5. Use current specialist toxicology information to frame the assessment and communicate essential data; do not improvise decontamination or antidote treatment.
6. Document the assessment, evidence, proposed action, responsible clinician and follow-up. Separate a student recommendation from an authorised treatment decision.
7. Retain the original observations and calculations. State deviations, missing information and the limits of the conclusion; do not replace measured values with expected results.

Observations and Record

Enter actual measurements or the supplied teaching data. Record the method, material identity, conditions and units.

Problem / evidence	Goal / priority	Proposed action / owner	Monitoring / follow-up
Safety or urgent issue	Define	Escalate appropriately	Specify
Effectiveness / adherence	Define	Discuss with team	Specify
Information gap	State	Obtain evidence	Review

Worked Example

Fictional case: a child may have swallowed an unknown volume of household liquid. Record product and container details and arrange urgent professional assessment; do not induce vomiting or give a home antidote.

The unknown amount remains unknown in the report; do not replace it with a guessed dose.

Result and Interpretation

• Deliver a call-record template, triage rationale and evidence-based referral plan.

Precautions

• Protect confidentiality and use actual units and timing.
• Check allergy, indication, organ function, interactions and the complete medicine list.
• Urgent clinical findings need timely clinical assessment; teaching notes do not replace care.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why identify the exact product?

Ingredients and concentration determine risk.

Can an unknown amount be treated as zero?

Uncertainty must be reported and assessed professionally.

Why avoid improvised home treatment?

It may worsen injury or delay appropriate care.

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