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Role of Poison Centres in Detection of Lead Poisoning

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Title: Harnessing Poison Information Centers for Enhanced Public Health Surveillance and Lead Poisoning Prevention

Abstract:

Poison information centers play a crucial role in collecting data related to both informational inquiries and actual exposures in cases of human poisonings. This valuable data is not only shared within the network of poison centers but also disseminated to public health agencies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for comprehensive analysis and proactive response. The data is meticulously cataloged and can be geographically pinpointed through mailing codes (zip codes), counties, and cities, thereby enabling precise geo-location tracking.

The power of geo-location tracking goes beyond mere record-keeping; it empowers us to identify patterns of potential poison exposures and predict where future incidents may occur. This data is meticulously recorded and stored in electronic medical records (EMRs), with specific fields being coded and subsequently shared with the National Poison Data System and CDC within the United States.

In addition to data collection and analysis, poison centers are equipped with trained community educators who collaborate closely with medical toxicologists and public health officials. Together, they play an instrumental role in educating community physicians and the public on the assessment and prevention of lead poisoning, particularly in high-risk areas.

While geo-location serves as a vital variable in exposure assessment, recent findings have shed light on an emerging concern. Elevated levels of lead have been detected in metal cookware, particularly in recycled metal



pots and pans, which frequently contain significant lead concentrations. The usage of such cookware, especially with acidic foods, has been found to facilitate the transfer of lead into the prepared dishes.

In conclusion, poison centers are indispensable in the realm of medical toxicology, serving as the linchpin in training physicians and public health officials. Their efforts extend beyond knowledge dissemination to screening at-risk populations and ensuring the timely and appropriate cessation of exposure, followed by the initiation of necessary treatments. By harnessing the power of geo-location data and staying vigilant to evolving risks such as lead-contaminated cookware, we continue to advance our capabilities in safeguarding public health and preventing poisoning incidents.

This revised abstract provides a more detailed and engaging overview of your presentation, highlighting the significance of poison information centers in both data collection and lead poisoning prevention.