Tuesday 26th September 2023: 13.15 – 14.45

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductory video
   Lesley Onyon & Guy Mbayo, WHO

2. Keynote Presentation
   Mark Zammit, Ministry of Health, Malta

3. Panel discussion: Poison Centres and Sound Chemicals Management
   #Poison centres in Europe – National perspectives, Toxicovigilance
   Igor Galic, Montenegro
   Raquel Duarte Davidson, UK
   #Poison centres in the Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean
   - Chemical Emergencies
   Mazen Malkawi, WHO EMRO
   #Poison centres in Africa – working across sectors
   Cris Kanema, ZEMA, Zambia

4. Closing Remarks & Special Guest
• Developed at the request of the World Health Assembly in 2017

• Identifies actions to be taken by health sector to enhance implementation of SAICM & SDGs

• Actions categorized

• Covers four action areas

• WHA 76.17 sets 78th session to make any updates/adjustments to new SAICM instrument
Putting poisons centres on the map - WHO Chemicals Road Map

Poison centres are an integral part of the WHO Roadmap

- Enhancing toxicovigilance
- Identifying priority chemicals for national assessment & management
- Identifying and describing national indicators of progress for reducing chemicals burden of disease
- Contributing to networks including WHO risk assessment network and INTOX networks
- Establishing strengthening IHR core capacities
- Ensuring all countries have access to at least one poison centre
WHO Chemical Road Map: poisons centres saving lives and health sector

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Fellow & Executive Committee Member
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26 September 2023
Involvement of the health sector in chemicals management is critical for ensuring chemical safety.
Hazardous chemicals impacts are of public health concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health effects</th>
<th>Estimated impacts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductive disorders</td>
<td>-2 million deaths and 53 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) were lost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>globally in 2019 due to exposures to selected chemicals</td>
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<td>Neurological, neurodevelopmental disorders</td>
<td>-106 693 deaths and 6.3 million years of healthy life were lost due to poisonings</td>
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<td>Respiratory, cardiovascular and immune systems</td>
<td>in 2016</td>
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<td>impairments</td>
<td>-Annually, around 650,000 deaths are caused by hazardous chemicals at workplace</td>
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<td>Diabetes and other metabolic problems</td>
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<td>Kidney and skin disease</td>
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<td>Malformations</td>
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<td>Etc.</td>
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Economic and society costs are enormous
Human health is an issue of concern through the whole life cycle of chemicals
Poison centres are important for chemical safety and chemicals management
# Poison centres roles in chemical safety and chemicals management

## Management of poisonings

- 24/7 information service health care professionals and/or public
- Identification of poisoning agents
- Toxicovigilance and toxicosurveillance
- Data analysis to justify preventive policies
- Diagnosis and treatment of poisonings

## Public health management of chemical emergencies and to IHR implementation

- Timely detection and sharing of expertise/information, risk assessment and communication
- Chemical surveillance and detection of new trends
- Identification of the necessary antidotes and medicinal products, and offering advice on their use
- Ensuring core capacity and essentials for IHR implementation

## Contribution to chemicals management

- Real-world evidence and expertise on chemical impacts to inform regulations and policies
- Databases on chemical agents/mixtures/products – pesticides, industrial chemicals, consumer products and other hazardous products
- Classification and labelling of hazardous agents
- Database on chemical safety datasheets (potentially)
The first poisons information centre in the world was established in Chicago, Illinois in 1953.

- Consisting of a desk, a telephone, a clerk, and files, the Center reaches out to industry to compile ingredient information, toxicity potential, and treatment programs.
Structure of a fully operational poison centre

- Information unit
- Clinical unit
- Laboratory unit
- Other (research, training, transportation of medical supplies, ambulances, administration)
Crucial in a national multidisciplinary environmental assessment team for chemical incidents
Poison centres advice governments and industry on chemicals management

- Patient Information Database
- Poisoning Agents Database
- Hazardous products and mixtures database

Information on hazards (industrial chemicals, pesticides, household chemicals, other products)
Safety datasheets
Classification and labelling of chemical mixtures and products

Risk assessment
Advice on risk reduction measures
Advice to health care professionals and to public
Notification of hazardous products to poison centres (EU regulation and experience)

Legal regulation

Art 45(4) CLP Regulation – MS shall appoint a body or bodies responsible for receiving information relevant, in particular, for formulating preventative and curative measures.... from importers and downstream users placing mixtures on the market

Notification requirement:
Importers and downstream users shall provide information to PCs on all mixtures placed on the market and classified as hazardous

- the full chemical composition of the mixture – both the hazardous and non-hazardous components
- label of a product with a unique formula identifier (UFI) – allows poison centres to rapidly identify the product
- assigning a product category according to the European Product Categorization System
EU regulation on notification of hazardous products (example)

How to use it: put a drop according to quantity and type of dirt. Rub with a sponge or brush to remove any remaining grease. Rinse with plenty of warm water.

Large company
PO Box 123
01234 City, Country
Telephone 123 123 123

Child-resistant cap
Press down and turn

SURIFEX 750 ml
Contains phenoxethanol
UFI: H563-L905-R703-J823

WARNING
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
CAUSES SERIOUS EYE IRRITATION

Read label before use. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Rinse skin with water [or shower]. If IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do so. Continue rinsing. If eye irritation persists, get medical advice/attention.

UFI code
Pictogram
Signal word
Hazard statement
Precautionary statements
Cross-cutting role

Education and trainings (for health and other professionals)

Networking

Communication and awareness raising

Cooperation and communication
Moving forward
Policy support – high level strategies to protect human health from chemical impacts

International Chemicals Policy Framework

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Public Health priorities

Universal Health Coverage for Mental Health – 15% reduction of suicide mortality

Universal Health Coverage - access to Essential Medicines

Maternal & Child Health initiatives

Health System Strengthening
Policy support – high level strategies to protect human health from chemical impacts

WHA Resolution 76/17
The impact of chemicals, wastes and pollution on human health
Technical support to countries

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240009523
Bridge stakeholders of sound chemicals management - poison centres play leading role

Industry - Regulatory authorities - Communities and general population

Clinicians - Public health - Environment – Agriculture - Emergency
#PoisonCentresSaveLives
THANK YOU for your attention
Panel discussion: Poison Centres and Sound Chemicals Management

Igor Galic  
Institute of Public Health, Montenegro

Raquel Duarte-Davidson  
Chemicals & Environmental Effects Department and Commissioner of UK Health Security Agency

Mazen Malkawi  
Regional Advisor on Environmental Health in the East-Mediterranean Region of WHO

Marie Innes Esquivel Garcia  
Environmental Health Planner in the Ministry of Health of Panama, National SAICM focal point

Cris Kanema  
Zambia Environmental Management Authority
Poison Centres and Toxicovigilance

- Toxicovigilance: “the active process of identifying and evaluating the toxic risks existing in a community, and evaluating the measures taken to reduce or eliminate them”

- Timely detection

- Real world statistics on demographics, circumstances of exposure, clinical outcomes, and management

- Expertise in identifying, assessing and advising on toxic exposures
Case Study: COVID-19 and Dental Analgesia Enquiries

Public Health Actions

- Notified Chief Dental Officer of potential risks, disseminated to dental practices
- Message in NHS England bulletin to staff, link to pain relief guidance
- Notified Healthwatch – people who have difficulty accessing healthcare

“Based on toxicovigilance assessments during the pandemic, there is the potential for patients with dental problems to take excessive dosages of analgesic medications instead of attending the dentist. Please see the following poster for guidance on dental pain relief”

- WHO notified as not identified in other countries
For timely detection of and effective response to potential chemical risks and/or events, adequately resourced poison center(s) should be in place

• Routinely carry out event-based surveillance
• Poisons centers with real-time electronic data collection can carry out indicator-based surveillance
Examples on the role poison centers in chemical emergencies
POISON CENTERS AND NETWORKS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Diversity of institutional settings (country examples, not a complete list)

- Hospitals (Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico)
- Health services (Brazil, El Salvador, Peru, Venezuela)
- Ministry of Health central management (Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua)
  Universities (Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay)
- National networks – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico
- Regional networks – Redciatox, Retoxlac

Training opportunities
Academic institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru
Chemical safety training of trainers

International Health Regulation