



FLORIDA POISON INFORMATION CENTER
www.poisoncentertampa.org

For Immediate Release

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E-cigarette mistakes lead to critical illness

A 6-year-old girl in Oregon experienced severe nicotine poisoning after mistakenly being given e-cigarette liquid rather than medicine. This frightful mistake could happen to anyone who transfers nicotine out of its original container. The child's mother created do-it-yourself e-juice by mixing highly concentrated nicotine with other substances. She then chose to store some of the liquid in a Children's Motrin bottle kept in the refrigerator. The father took the Motrin bottle and gave his daughter 2 teaspoons, thinking it was medicine for pain. When the girl complained of burning in her throat, her father discovered what was actually in the bottle. He took the right steps by calling the Poison Control Center, who advised him to call 911. The child passed out before paramedics arrived. The child required a breathing tube and ventilator before fortunately recovering.

Dr. Gregory Gaar, emergency physician at the Pediatric Emergency Department at Tampa General Hospital, says that poison prevention is a constant challenge for parents, but it's important to keep hazardous substances away from children and out of drink containers or medicine bottles.

E-cigarette refill liquid is dangerous to children and adults. It contains concentrated nicotine. Poison Centers have recorded many cases of serious effects after a splash in the eye or on the skin. Just one swallow of liquid can be toxic to children attracted to the flavored refill bottles. Poison centers in the USA received 1,492 calls about e-cigarette poisonings in 2016. In that same year, Florida poison centers recorded 97 e-cig poisonings. Twenty cases were reported from the Tampa Bay region, (Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Manatee counties) in 2016.

"Poison help is only a phone call away, 24 hours a day at 800-222-1222," says Dr. Alfred Aleguas, managing director of the Florida Poison Information Center - Tampa.

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The mission of the Florida Poison Control Centers is to provide exceptional care for individual patients and for supporting public health through information, surveillance, education and research.