

State of New Hampshire

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June 11, 2004

IMPORTANT Information on NH Poison Control Services

Dear Colleague:

Following an open bid process this spring for the awarding of contract funding through the Department of Safety, and pursuant to RSA 126-A:49, we are changing the state-designated poison center for New Hampshire from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital to Maine Medical Center's Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC) beginning July 1, 2004. The NNEPC is currently the designated poison center for both Maine and Vermont.

NO CHANGE IN DIALING. Beginning on July 1, 2004 (and through test periods in the weeks beforehand), calls from New Hampshire to the national 800 poison control line, the New Hampshire in-state 800 poison control line, and the in-state direct dial number will be answered by the trained staff at the NNEPC:

800 222 1222	National Poison Information Center toll-free number
800 562 8236	New Hampshire Poison Center in-state toll-free number
603 650 8000	New Hampshire direct dial

We anticipate that the transition planning will result in a seamless turnover in service for New Hampshire callers. Please be assured that Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital is forwarding important New Hampshire contact and resource information for the staff at NNEPC. In 2002, NNEPC had the similar experience of incorporating Vermont into their poison control coverage area. On-going educational outreach in New Hampshire relating to poison control services is being developed at this time.

We sincerely appreciate the poison information services that Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital has provided for New Hampshire residents until this time, and also appreciate their collaboration in the transfer of this critically important statewide service.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce G. Cheney".

Bruce G. Cheney, ENP, Director
Bureau of Emergency Management