

One Center's Medicine is Another Center's Poison Services

Non-Transport Support Through Poison Centers

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Poison Centers

There are 61 Poison Centers in the U.S.



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They all have Medical Directors



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They are staffed with poison specialists who work under the license of the Medical Director





WEST TEXAS REGIONAL POISON CENTER

at THOMASON 



EMS Poison Center Agreement

In 1995, El Paso EMSS and West Texas Regional Poison Center agreed to cooperate in the management of patients with exposures who called 911.



EMS Poison Center Agreement

We agreed to exclude:

Suicide attempts

Illicit drug overdoses

In other words, we were looking for only
accidental exposures



EMS Poison Center Agreement

We agreed that, in case the patient was not transported to a hospital, the Medical Director of the Poison Center would assume responsibility for the care of the patient.



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 - After determining that the patient is stable, the dispatcher initiates a conference call with the poison center
 - If the caller, the dispatcher and the poison specialist all agree that the patient does not need to go to the hospital, we “no roll” the call, and the poison specialist takes over care of the patient
 - If any one of the 3 think the patient needs to go to the hospital, an ambulance is dispatched
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- Transport and Hospital Fee Savings estimate of greater than \$5 Million

Other Benefits

- Radio Contact between EMS and Poison Center
 - Units can call the Poison Center from the Scene
- Poison Specialists are more used to working with those in the Field

Contact

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QUESTIONS?

