

COUNTERSHOCK (Text Version)

Spring 2004

Illinois Council Emergency Nurses Association

Editor's Note

This year, 2004, only two Countershock Newsletters are published. Please consult the web site for up-to-date information at www.illinoisENA.org.

President's Message

By Sharon Schultz

As we complete another crazy-busy winter season, do you feel like your community had no place to go but your ED? If you answered yes to this question, you are not alone. Overcrowded Emergency Departments are becoming the norm once again. I recall attending a session in the early 90's at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, on "Overcrowding in the ED". It was communicated that we could expect to top 94 million visits by 1997. I remember bringing the message back to the hospital I was currently working at, since we were planning a ED expansion, and was told by leadership that with the insurgence of managed care; we would actually see a decline in emergency visits. Now, I would expect any one working in a ED setting would offer up the same rebuttal then and now,

1. Uninsured persons will not become extinct,
2. When your physician's office is closed, or unable to accommodate you, and an emergency condition exists, you will seek medical care that is available, and
3. Convenience and comfort of one stop shopping.

Overcrowding in the ED is receiving National attention; there are papers, symposiums and even Joint Commission Standards. These communication paths explore study results, present reasons and propose solutions. The Institute of Medicine has recommended to healthcare systems across the country to ensure that patient care is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable. In an ACEP article on overcrowding, it is stated, " there are no studies of how ED overcrowding affects patient outcomes".

I am a huge proponent of evidenced-based practice, and believe that nursing and medical outcome research studies should be done to support actions. However, on the surface (without scientific evidence), it would seem to me the same problems which were barriers for patient access to care ten years ago continue to be present today. Such as, inappropriate utilization of Emergency Department resources, delay in the admission process, and constant demand for emergency department and inpatient nurses to care for and accept patients at random. Number four, in addition to the previous factors is, the present day longevity of life has added sheer numbers to the need for access to emergency care.

So what can we do as Emergency Nurses to be heard on this issue? Please join Darcy Egging and myself at the Spring Symposium on Friday, May 21, 2004 to have a discussion on how overcrowding is affecting your role as an Emergency Nurse, with suggestions you have for increasing access to care. And oh, by the way, about those declining numbers from the impact of managed care, we saw a 20% increase from 1992 through 2001 in ED admissions, (from 89.7 million to 107.5 million in 2001)!

Events

May 20 – Illinois ENA Networking Dinner at Oakbrook Marriott, Oak Brook. Contact Cheryl Vinikoor at 847-870-0793 or tovadog@aol.com.

September 27 – October 2 – National ENA Meeting in San Diego, CA. Contact National ENA at 800-900-9659.

State Council Meetings

March 27 - Stroger Hospital (Cook County), Chicago. Contact Sharon Schultz at 630-518-3506 or saschultz@rsh.net.

August 14 - St. Joseph's Medical Center, Bloomington. Contact Sharon Schultz at 630-518-3506 or saschultz@rsh.net.

November 6 - Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood. Contact Sharon Schultz at 630-518-3506 or saschultz@rsh.net.

Other Committee Meetings

April TBA – ENA Injury Prevention/Government Affairs Committee. Contact Thelma Kuska at 708-361-8677 x20 or thelmakuska@comcast.net.

April TBA – ENA Membership Committee. Contact Merri Lazenby at 630-762-8945 or rnflygirl@comcast.net.

April 14 – ENA Education Committee. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

April 27 – ENA Pediatric Committee. Contact Claudia Kirschner at 773-880-3800 or ckirschner@childrensmemorial.org.

June TBA - ENA Injury Prevention/Government Affairs Committee. Contact Thelma Kuska at 708-361-8677 x20 or thelmakuska@comcast.net.

June TBA - ENA Membership Committee. Contact Merri Lazenby at 630-762-8945 or rnflygirl@comcast.net.

June 9 - ENA Education Committee. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

August 11 - ENA Education Committee. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

August 14 – ENA Research Committee. Contact Vicki Keough 708-216-3582 or vkeough@luc.edu.

September 28 - ENA Pediatric Committee. Contact Claudia Kirschner at 773-880-3800 or ckirschner@childrensmemorial.org.

Educational Opportunities

April 21 - ESI Triage Course, University of Chicago, Chicago. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

May 20, ENPC Instructors, Oakbrook Marriott, Oakbrook. Contact Mary Otting at 773-880-4437 or motting@childrensmemorial.org.

May 20 – INVENT, Oak Brook Marriott, Oak Brook. Contact Barb Wientraub at 847-618-5432 or Barbrn1@comcast.net.

May 20, TNCC Challenge, Oak Brook Marriott, Oak Brook. Contact Jan Gillispie at 630-527-3357 or jgillespie@edward.org.

May 21, Spring Symposium, Oak Brook Marriott, Oak Brook. Contact Cheryl Vinakoor at 847-870-0793 or tovadog@aol.com

Sept 10, ESI Triage Course, Springfield. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

Nov 3, Trauma Seminar. Contact Karen Hamick at 847-842-4368 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

Announcements

Visit the Illinois State Council Web Site for up-to-date information at www.illinoisENA.org

Keynote Speaker Wants Your Story

Dr. Janice Phillips, keynote speaker slated for our 30th Annual Spring Symposium, is asking for members to send her their most memorable emergency nursing stories. What made you choose this specialty? What keeps you in it? Please email Dr. Phillips at Janice.Phillips@worldnet.att.net with your story and/or reflections on emergency nursing for the keynote address on May 21st.

Bioterrorism Grant Award

This past January our Illinois State ENA Council was awarded a grant through IDPH in the amount of \$75,000.00 for FY 2004. This grant is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Administration (HRSA) for the National Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program. This grant allows us to further develop our INVENT Program, (Illinois Nurse Volunteer Emergency Needs Team) that was introduced at last years Spring Symposium. The intent of INVENT is to prepare a team of nurses, on a voluntary basis, to support emergency departments across Illinois, when a critical incident occurs suspected to be Bioterrorism. Another program will be presented at this years Spring Symposium. Please refer to the brochure or contact Barb Weintraub at home: barbrn1@comcast.net, work: bweintraub@nch.org.

Evidence Based Practice Committee

We are looking to form a new committee for the State. This committee will be charged with looking at evidence based practice (EBP) issues. Since this is a new committee the objectives, mission and plan will need to be developed. But the central work would revolve around researching selected topics that affect emergency nursing practice.

Those choosing to be apart of this committee need to be willing to thoroughly research a topic, read and evaluate the information. Hence the committee members will need to have access to articles and computers.

The committee will hopefully meet for the first time in April or May. If you are interested please contact Darcy Egging by email: eggingda@comcast.

Illinois ENA State Council Meeting Minutes – Highlights from January 17, 2004

By Sharon Graunke

New President Sharon Schultz presided over her first State Council meeting at Loyola University. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting. A complete set of minutes will be available after voting at the next State Council meeting.

- Reminder about the National ENA Leadership Conference next month in Utah.
- Polly Zimmermann, a director for National ENA, will be at our March 27th State Council and again at our November 6th meeting.
- Illinois will be updating its strategic plan. Suggestion was to place the current plan on the website and solicit comments from the membership.
- Illinois ENA received a 1-year renewable grant from IDPH for INVENT. It can cover education, equipment, uniforms, etc.

- Illinois ENA is investigating obtaining a merchant account or something similar which will allow us to use credit cards for payment at seminars. Hope to have this in place for Spring Symposium.
- Education Committee will be hosting 3 – ESI Triage courses this year (Feb 13, April 21 and Sept 10), as well as one Trauma seminar (Nov 3).
- ENPC Instructors – There will be a roll-out of the newly revised ENPC curriculum on Thursday, May 20th – the day before the Spring Symposium.
- Spring Symposium will be Friday, May 21st at the Oak Brook Marriott. Good room rates. There will be several pre-sessions the day before as well as the dinner and silent auction to benefit ENF. Brochures expected out in February.
- TNCC Challenge – Trauma committee will try another TNCC challenge the day before Spring Symposium. Anyone who wishes to take the challenge in lieu of the class is encouraged to sign up. Information will be on the Spring Symposium brochure.
- Elections – We will be looking for Secretary, Director, and Treasurer-elect for terms starting in January 2005.
- EMSC – Facility recognition continue. Currently doing Regions 4 & 5. Region 11 will be later this year.
- Bioterrorism – State developed guidelines for bioterrorism should be coming out to the hospitals this year. There will be pediatric bullet points in each section.
- The Outer Limits – western suburbs group will meet on Wednesday, February 11 at 630pm at Rush Copley.
- State Council Meeting dates for this year – March 27th at Stroger Hospital (Cook County), August 14 at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Bloomington and November 6 at Loyola University Medical Center.

**ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL
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Research Committee

By Rita Schlomer

The Research Committee is putting out a call for posters for Friday, May 21, 2004 at Illinois ENA's Spring Symposium. Staff, educators, managers, and researchers who are involved in research projects, Emergency Department performance improvement initiatives or a "change" project are welcome to display a poster. If you have questions, contact Rita Schlomer, 309-527-3612 or rita.schlomer@osfhealthcare.org.

Please submit abstract to:

Rita Schlomer, RN, MS, APN, CEN
2770 County Road 800 N
El Paso, IL 61738

Pediatric Committee

By Mary Otting

CALLING ALL ENPC INSTRUCTORS:

We are holding a **mandatory** update session for all ENPC instructors the day prior to the Illinois ENA Spring Symposium @ the Oakbrook Marriott from 8am -1630.

This update is required for all ENPC instructors to continue teaching throughout the state. If you are unable to make this date we are looking at other dates and locations in which to provide the update. However, these dates and times are not finalized as of this print.

Please contact one of the following people and we will make every effort to ensure update session information is provided to you.

National ENA is allowing a 3 month window for instructors to become recertified once the update information is rolled out and the book printing completed.

At the present time, we are making every effort to have the class and the new book expense covered by the Pediatric committee, however, at the present time we cannot guarantee it.

When contacting any of us please leave or send the following information:
Your name, mailing address, phone number and PREFERABLY an email address:

Mary Otting	motting@childrensmemorial.org	773-880-4437
Claudia Kirschner	ckirschner@childrensmemorial.org	773-880-3800
Rebecca Steinmann	rsteinmann@childrensmemorial.org	773-975-8764

Membership Committee

By Merri Lazenby

First Annual Membership Drive Underway

Recently your manager received a mailing regarding the first annual Illinois State Council ENA Membership Drive. Your emergency department, along with the 212 other emergency departments in the state, are invited to compete for the title of "Most Professionally Involved ED" in the state. The rules of the contest are simple. Your manager (or a designated staff member) becomes an ENA membership liaison by submitting contact information and a staff roster to the ENA membership chairperson for Illinois. Membership and participation in Illinois State Council and ENA is promoted at staff meetings and other staff gatherings by the membership liaison. The state membership chairperson serves as a support for the liaisons, offering advice, membership supplies, and information. At the end of April, we will total up the number of ENA members in every staff that submits a roster. The emergency department with the highest percentage of ENA members (amongst its full and part time staff) wins the title of "Most Professionally Involved ED" as well as these great prizes:

- \$300 ENAbucks to be used for educational materials for the department from the ENA marketplace or for a paid registration to the ENA Scientific Assembly in San Diego, CA from September 29th to October 2nd.
- Up to three paid registrations to the Spring Symposium held at the Oak Brook Marriott May 20th to the 21st (donated by Illinois ENCARE).

If you are interested in serving as your hospital's ENA Membership Liaison please talk to your manager or contact the Illinois membership chairperson, Merri Lazenby at (630) 762-8945 or illinoisena@comcast.net. In addition to the prizes your emergency department can win, you are able to participate in the national Member-Get-A-Member Campaign which rewards you for every member you recruit. For additional information about the Member-Get-A-Member Campaign consult the national web site at www.ena.org or call Merri Lazenby.

Good Luck and may the best Emergency Department win!

Trauma Committee

By Jan Gillipsie

The Trauma Committee is always looking for new members and our next meeting is March 8 at Edward Health Care Center, 95th and Book in Naperville. We will meet in the EMS Office on the lower level at 12 noon. Please RSVP to Jan Gillespie (630-527-3357) as lunch will be served. Join us for an exciting meeting.

The Trauma Committee is sponsoring the TNCC Challenge held on May 20th, the day before the Illinois ENA Spring Symposium. Please call Jan Gillespie at 630-527-3357 for information and an application. The cost is \$150 and CEUs are awarded.

Spring Symposium

By Cheryl Vinakoor

This is the 30th anniversary of the annual Spring Symposium from Illinois ENA. It is the "pearl" anniversary. We have a wonderful program planned for this year. Save the date...Friday, May 21, 2004 at the Marriott Oakbrook. The pre-conference classes on Thursday include INVENT (prepares nurses for a disaster response), TNCC Challenge Course, and a mandatory ENPC instructor update course for the new curriculum.

Look for the brochure in early March. ENA members will receive a brochure in the mail, but the brochure will be available on the web site at www.illinoisENA.org. There is a link from the national website at www.ENA.org to the state site.

We are pleased to offer the option this year of paying by Visa or Mastercard for programs on both days, as well as at the silent auction. Plan to attend the Networking Dinner Thursday evening at the Marriott before the Symposium. This dinner is sponsored by the Illinois State Council and is complimentary. It is a great opportunity to meet with other emergency nurses from Illinois and surrounding states. Hope to see you there.

WEB SITE NEWS

By Kathleen Richmond

We're searching for a new look to our www.illinoisENA.org and need member input to guide us in the redesign. Those of you who visit the web site regularly may have ideas on how to improve the look, content, and navigational tools. What works for you, the membership, is key to the success of our web site as a communication network. If you haven't used the web site, let us know why. Members can visit the web site to view sample page formats and complete a redesign survey. See you on the web!

Education Committee

By Kathy Henkelman

The Education Committee is busy planning several seminars to promote the new 5-tiered triage system, know as Emergency Severity Index (ESI). This system is valid and reliable and most importantly been well received by staff nurses throughout the country. Several members attended the ENA National Conference ESI training session and implemented the 5-teriered triage system in their hospital emergency departments and are now anxious to spread the word. We are fortunate in the state of Illinois to have Paula Tanabe, one of the original researchers and co-author of the recently released, ESI: Emergency Severity Index Workbook as our presenter. The February 13 program at Swedish Covenant Hospital was well attended and extremely well received. The seminar will be repeated on April 21 at the University of Chicago by Paula Tanabe and September 10 in Springfield, by Education Committee members. We hope to again see a great turn-out and continue to spread the word.

Our annual trauma seminar is planned for November 3 and includes sessions for both pediatric and adult continuing education credit. The tentative site is Elmhurst but look for the flyer in early fall for specifics.

We encourage ENA members from all parts of the state to join our committee. Audio teleconferencing may be an option for our meetings if there is enough interest at a down state site. Also any suggestions for seminar topics or perhaps CE CD-ROM programs would be great. Please feel free to contact our committee chair, Karen Hamick at 847-381-5342 or karen.hamick@advocatehealth.com.

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION DONATION

By Kathleen Richmond, RN

The EMERGENCY NURSES FOUNDATION Silent Auction will be held again this year in conjunction with the Spring Symposium on May 21, 2004. Last year's event raised a total of \$4,002.00. These funds directly benefited emergency nurses, emergency patients, and the public through the support of: emergency nursing research, the promotion of public education regarding prevention of illness and injury, and the awarding of undergraduate, advanced practice and doctoral scholarships. The auction will take place during the Symposium's Networking Dinner, the evening of May 20th, and is guaranteed to be lots of fun! Dinner attendees are being asked to consider bringing a small, suitable item to add to the auction offerings that evening. ENF needs your support! Please contact me directly by e-mail or phone (RichmondK8@aol.com)

or 708-687-6044) if you know of an individual, a company, or an organization that may be willing to donate a special item, such as sports memorabilia, theater tickets, or gift certificates. Your help is essential in making the auction a success.

CALL FOR DELEGATES

ENA General Assembly

The National meeting for ENA is held in San Diego, CA. The General Assembly is **September 28-29** and the Scientific Assembly is **September 30 – October 2, 2004**. Delegates from Illinois are needed to help frame the future of the National Organization. A stipend is available to help offset the additional expense for delegates.

Delegates are selected by the following point system. Please submit your points by **July 1, 2004** to:

Julie D'Agostino
1540 North Hickory
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Jdagostino@ameritech.net

Points are earned as follows:

5 Points – local officer, local committee chair, national committee member, national SIG member, faculty for ENA educational activities, newsletter contributor, attended annual meeting, attended local or SIG meeting.

10 Points – national board member, national committee chair, state committee member, chair national SIG, state SIG member, program planning of ENA educational activities, attended state meeting, CEN certification, intraorganization interaction (INA, SNAPI, NEMSCA, etc.), Lobby Day participant, active involvement in the legislative process.

15 Points – State board member, state committee chair, chair state SIG, newsletter editorial activities, published emergency nursing article, conducted research related to emergency nursing, consulting activities related to emergency nursing.

ENA SCHOLARSHIP TO SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY IN SAN DIEGO

By Julie Bracken

Again this year Illinois State Council ENA wants to support the membership by offering a scholarship to attend National Scientific Assembly in San Diego, CA, **September 30 – October 2, 2004**.

To apply for the scholarship you must be an Illinois State Council ENA member and submit written response to the following criteria:

- Have you attended an Annual Meeting in the past?
- Describe your contributions/activities in your community or institution for each of the following areas: Clinical practice, education, research/quality improvement and leadership/management.
- Describe your involvement in ENA.
- Explain how your attendance at this meeting will enhance your professional growth.
- Explain your plans for sharing the information acquired from the Assembly (who, where, how).

Points are awarded for the above criteria. All applications must be postmarked by **July 1, 2004** and are evaluated by an objective team prior to the Annual Meeting.

Mail applications to:

Rebecca Steinmann
275 Indiana Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126

If questions call, (773) 975-87646

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The following positions are open for Illinois State Council. If you are interested please submit a letter of intent with a brief statement declaring position sought and why, history of ENA involvement and a resume or CV by **July 1, 2004** to:

Barbara Weintraub
646 Naples Court
Glenview, IL 60025
W: (847) 618-5432
FX: (847) 699-4474
EM home: barbrn1@comcast.net
EM work: bweintraub@nch.org

Secretary

Qualifications

Current national association member
Current Illinois RN licensure
Demonstrated active participation in ENA

Responsibility:

Attend all state council and board meetings and record proceedings
Distribute the minutes to all board members and committee chairs within 2 weeks of the meeting
Provide copies of the meeting minutes at meetings for members
Present to the keeper of archive records for the previous year
Send sympathy, thank you cards, etc. on behalf of the council
Act as liaison to assigned committees and SIGs
Support the newsletter editor

Term of office:

Serves two calendar years, January 1 through December 31

Treasurer-Elect

Qualifications

Current national association member
Current Illinois RN licensure
Demonstrated active participation in ENA

Responsibility:

Works with the treasurer to learn the role of state Treasurer
Performs duties as assigned by the President or Treasurer
Collaborates with the Treasurer in the development of the budget
Assists the Board in approval of the state budget
Assumes duties of treasurer in the event the Treasurer is unable
Attends Board and Council meetings
Acts as a liaison to assigned committees/SIGs

Term of office:

Serves a term of three years, one year as Treasurer-Elect and two years as Treasurer.

Director

Qualifications:

Current national association member
Current Illinois RN licensure
Demonstrated active participation in ENA

Responsibility

Assist with council business and coordinates activities of the council.
Liaison to committees as assigned by the president. Continued communication with committee chairs and meeting attendance to serve as a resource person.
Attends all board and council meetings.
Coordinates selection of a member for scholarship to national assembly yearly.
Supports the president and board in implementing the strategic plan.
Coordinates printing of the yearly pocket calendar.
Term of office:
Serves a term of two calendar years, January 1 through December 31.

Injury Prevention Institute/Government Affairs

By Thelma Kuska

Understanding the Booster Seat Law

On January 1, 2004, a new amendment to the Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act took effect. Children under 8 must be secured in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat. Only 23 states and the District of Columbia have booster seat laws.

Newspaper articles covering the new booster seat law report on the confusion and anger of parents. Many parents who have restrained their under 8 year old children in just safety belts now have to put them back in booster seats. Some parents are voicing strong disagreement to their legislators resulting in the introduction of a bill to repeal this new law. If this happens, the safety of children 4- to 8-years old will be at stake. If you look closely to what some parents are saying, much of the opposition to this new law concerns the inconvenience and cost to adults to comply with these laws. Why aren't they concerned with the safety of the child?

Let us look at what research and experience have shown. The truth is most parents make sure their children are restrained. The child restraint (child safety seat) use rate for children from birth to age 3 is about 95 to 97 percent. According to Dr. Flaura Winston of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the simple act of restraining a child makes it three times less likely the child will be injured in a crash. Placing the children in the back seat further makes it two times less likely that the children will be injured in a crash.

But the vast majority of the parents across the country are not adequately protecting their 4- to 8-year old children in motor vehicle crashes. Many are not aware of the current best practice regarding child passenger safety. And many do not realize children are actually more comfortable in belt-positioning booster seats rather than in adult safety belts alone. According to the research data from CHOP, by age 4, the most prevalent form of restraint is the adult safety belt. Only 24 percent of children age 4 are in booster seats and by age 7, virtually no children are in booster seats.

Children in safety belts are 4 times more likely to suffer head/brain injury as compared to children who use child safety seats and belt-positioning booster seats. 71% of serious injuries to 4- to 8-year olds are to the head and face. This is likely due to excessive head excursion.

Why use booster seats? The safety belts in cars are designed for adults. During a crash, adult safety belts spread the forces if the crash over the strong, hard, bones of the hips, shoulders and chest. An adult safety belt fits correctly when the lap portion of the belt rides low over hips and the shoulder portion of

the belt crosses the sternum and shoulder. Correct safety belt use is not usually achieved until a child is 9 years old or at least 4'9" tall, when the child is able to sit against the back of the seat and knees bent comfortably over the seat edge and the child's seating height is sufficient for the shoulder belt to fit properly over the shoulder and sternum.

When a child is prematurely graduated to an adult seat belt, the lap portion of the belt rides up over the soft abdomen and the shoulder portion crosses the face, causing many children to move the shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm. Placing the shoulder portion of the safety belt behind one's back renders the lap portion of a "continuous safety belt" virtually useless because it will not lock properly in the event of a crash. Incorrect fit of the vehicle belt places the child at risk for "submarining" or sliding out of the belt during a crash. In a crash, a lap belt that rides up over the soft abdomen increases the risk of intra-abdominal and spinal cord injuries or "seat belt syndrome."

What is the argument to keeping the booster seat law? To be fair, there are an equal number of parents out there who are very much aware of the risks of crashes, are aware of the injuries that children can sustain if they are unrestrained and know belt-positioning booster seats use can reduce the risk of injuries. However, even with this knowledge, they fail to use these devices. Strong child passenger safety laws that are enforced are the only strategy for parents to optimally protect their children. Parents somehow look to state laws for guidance on how to appropriately restrain their children. The risk of getting a citation is an incentive to use booster seats.

As healthcare professionals, we must be the voice for all children. They need protection. Children must be adequately protected. They are our precious resource. Let us educate our legislators.

ILLINOIS POISON CENTER ANTIDOTE LIST NOW AVAILABLE

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The Illinois Poison Center (IPC) [800-222-1222] has made available to emergency room nurses and other frontline emergency personnel an online version of its suggested antidote list. This reference describes 27 antidotes and 10 adjunctive agents used in the management of various toxicologic emergencies. Illinois nurses are welcome to access this information, along with other poisoning and toxicology news from the IPC, at www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org. With the upcoming observance of National Poison Prevention Week, March 21-27, 2004, now is a good time for nurses and other health care professionals to survey their institutions to assess antidote readiness.

It is important to note that no regulatory agency, i.e., state health department, FDA or JCAHO, has established minimum standards for antidote stocking. The quantities of medications listed in the IPC antidote list are suggested guidelines. The amounts may be adjusted based on factors such as anticipated usage in the hospital's local area, the nearest alternate sources of antidotes, the distance to tertiary care institutions, etc. Please note that some antidotes (e.g., the cyanide antidote kit) must be immediately available on-site when a patient arrives at a hospital. Inadequate antidote preparedness may lead to increased morbidity or mortality. **Please also note the suggested quantities of antidotes may be insufficient as adequate preparedness for mass casualty events such as a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) incident.**

The IPC is the only certified, regional poison center in Illinois, serving more than 12 million residents in 102 counties – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – via a national, toll-free number, 1-800-222-1222. Calling the toll-free hot line will connect callers with their designated local poison center at any time from anywhere in the United States; all calls placed in Illinois are routed to the IPC. Staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses and poison information providers, the IPC provides poison prevention information and treatment advice to the public and health care professionals on household products, herbal products, medication issues, alcohol or drug misuse, bites and stings, occupational accidents and other poisonings.

The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, an association of more than 140 hospitals and health care organizations working together to improve the quality of health care services.