

NewYork-Presbyterian Community Health Plan

PROVIDER ALERT

-- July 2007

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Pesticide Poisoning Registry

As a NewYork-Presbyterian Community Health Plan (NYPCHP) provider you are responsible in helping to identify members who have been exposed to pesticides. By reporting your members with possible pesticide poisoning to the Pesticide Poisoning Registry you will assist to increase awareness in the medical community of the possibility of pesticide-related health effects and to develop interventions to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning.

Pesticide poisonings were added to the list of reportable conditions in New York State in 1990 as part of an effort to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning in New York. Under these regulations, physicians and health facilities are required to report suspected or confirmed cases of pesticide poisoning. Clinical laboratories are required to report depressed blood cholinesterase levels or abnormally high levels of pesticides in human tissue samples. Physicians should call the NYSDOH Pesticide Poisoning Registry at **1-800-322-6850** within 48 hours of treating any patients they suspect of having pesticide poisoning.

A definitive diagnosis is not needed prior to calling, and there is no paperwork for physicians to complete. The NYSDOH staff will investigate the reported case to collect information to monitor the health effects of pesticides. They may intervene in situations where a continued risk of pesticide poisoning exists. The work of the Pesticide Poisoning Registry complements the work of the regional poison control centers. The poison control centers supply information on immediate treatment and other emergency responses. Poisonings may result from structural applications, yard applications, manufacturing or formulation settings, farm settings or any other location where pesticides are used and stored. Because of their toxicity and easy availability, accidental or intentional ingestion of pesticides is also an ever-present threat.

An important public health issue in New York State is West Nile Virus (WNV). Some counties may apply pesticides to control mosquito populations. The New York State Department of Health will be conducting surveillance of reported health effects possibly resulting from exposure to the application of WNV-related pesticides.

Any physician who suspects or confirms that his/her patient is experiencing health effects due to exposure to WNV-related pesticides should report that case to the Pesticide Poisoning Registry at **1-800-322-6850**.

If you require additional information or have any questions please call Provider Services at 212-297-5510.