

CAP27 Poisoning

The trainee will be able to assess promptly a patient presenting with deliberate or accidental poisoning, initiate urgent treatment, ensure appropriate monitoring and recognise the importance of psychiatric assessment in episodes of self harm		
Knowledge	Assessment Methods	GMP Domains
Recall indications for activated charcoal and whole bowel irrigation	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Know the important symptoms, signs and tests to establish the type of poisoning i.e. to be able to recognise the common toxi-dromes	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Know the presentations of carbon monoxide poisoning	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Know the pharmacology and management of poisoning of the following (but not limited to): paracetamol, salicylate, beta blockers, opiates, alcohol, anti-coagulants, benzodiazepines, carbon monoxide, antidepressants, SSRIs, amphetamine, cocaine	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Understand the role of antidotes and demonstrates knowledge of specific therapies in poisoning including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ activated charcoal ▪ acetyl-cysteine ▪ bicarbonate ▪ hyperbaric oxygen 	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Demonstrates understanding of the role of drug testing/screening and of drug levels	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recognise importance of accessing TOXBASE and National Poisons Information Service and the use of the information so obtained	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Understand the psychological and physiological and socioeconomic effect of alcohol misuse and illicit drug use – opioids, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine, GHB. Understand addiction, dependence and withdrawal syndromes	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Skills		
Recognise critically ill overdose patient and resuscitate as appropriate	Mi, C	1

Take a full history of event, including a collateral history if possible	Mi, C	1
Examine to determine the nature and effects of poisoning	Mi, C	1
Demonstrate the ability to actively manage the acutely poisoned patient, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessing information required (e.g. TOXBASE) ▪ Use of specific antidotes and antitoxins ▪ Use of 'generic' control measures such as activated charcoal and alkalinisation of urine ▪ Use of renal replacement methods 	Mi, C	2
Order, interpret and act on initial investigations appropriately: biochemistry, arterial blood gas, glucose, ECG, and drug concentrations	E, MI, C	1
Ensure appropriate monitoring in acute period of care (TOXBASE)	Mi, C	1
Perform mental state examination	E, D	1
Practice safe prescribing of sedatives for withdrawal symptoms Ensures correction of malnutrition including vitamin and mineral supplementation	Mi, C, AA	1
Behaviour		
Contact senior promptly in event of critical illness or patient refusing treatment	ACAT, C	3
Recognise the details of poisoning event given by patient may be inaccurate	ACAT, C	2
Show compassion and patience in the assessment and management of those who have self-harmed	ACAT, C, M	4