

Children hospitalised after ingesting meds

Despite increasing use of child-proof packaging, infants and young children are still requiring emergency hospitalisation after ingesting prescription medications, say investigators in the US.

They used data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System Cooperative Adverse Drug Event Surveillance project, and prescription data from IMS Health, to estimate emergency hospitalisation rates in young children who ingested prescription medication between 2007 and 2011.

During the 5-year study period, emergency hospitalisation was required in 9490 children under 6 years of age, 75% of whom were 1–2 years old. The most frequently implicated drug classes were opioids (18%) and benzodiazepines (10%), and the most frequently implicated drugs were buprenorphine products (8%) and clonidine (7%).

"Focusing unsupervised ingestion prevention efforts on medications with the highest hospitalization rates may efficiently achieve a large public health impact," said the investigators.

Lovegrove MC, et al. Emergency Hospitalizations for Unsupervised Prescription Medication Ingestions by Young Children. *Pediatrics* 134: e1009-e1016, No. 4, Oct 2014. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2014-0840> 803108794