

## Poisoning in the United Republic of Tanzania

The main role of the NPCC is to advise the general public, in healthcare, forensic science professionals, industries and mining on the diagnosis of poisoning case, management plan as well as prevention of poisoning across the country.

**Poisoning** is a common cause of hospital admissions in the country, and has environmental impacts, also being numerically similar to forensic cases such as those of drugs of abuse cases and use of chemicals.

### NPCC Information Services

- NPCC-tz will establish Units which will operate in designated zonal laboratories.
- Each Unit covers a particular geographical region within the Republic of Tanzania. If the Head Quarters GCLA DAR, NPCC-tz unit is busy the call will be forwarded to the next available NPCC-tz Unit.
- Results in more efficient call answering and less waiting.

### NPCC-tz Activities

1. Poison enquiries from different categories of professionals.
  - Food Safety Pesticides and other preservatives.
  - Pharmaceutical product.
  - Forensic Issues, such as misuse of chemicals or death suspected to originate from poison.
  - Drug of abuse cases.
  - Environmental impact caused by poisoning due to processes that may result in poisoning such as mining and industrial waste.
2. Development, data collection and maintenance of Tanzania toxicological Database (TOX-tz).
3. Education and training.
4. Toxic surveillance-drugs of abuse, illicit drugs, pesticides, illicit alcohols etc.
5. Advice to government departments and agencies.
6. Chemical incidence hotline
7. Antidote availability.
8. Assay availability.



### Reasons for calling NPCC-tz?

- Insufficient information on TOX-tz.
- Reassurance.
- Poly-pharmacy overdose.
- Severe or complex cases.
- Unusual or novel cases.
- Unusual presentations.
- No history available.
- Use of rare antidotes.

### What happens when I call?

Respondent at NPCC gathers information from Database searches including:

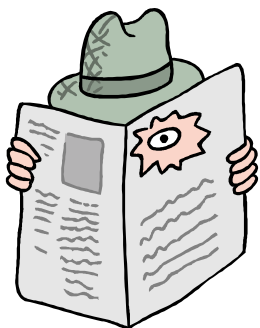
- TOXBASE, TOX-tz, PoisIndex.
- ChemKnowledge, MSDS database.

Literature searches including:

- Textbooks.
- Monographs.
- Chemical data sheets.
- Current awareness in clinical and Forensic toxicology, Chemical importation data, etc.

## Who answers the calls?

Calls are answered by NPCC Specialists with specialized skills and competencies in:



- Forensic Sciences, Toxicology and Chemistry.
- Chemicals Management and
- Medical Toxicology.

## Understanding TOX-tz

1. Using TOX-tz, designed to assist new and existing users to use the database more effectively.
2. Clinical management of the poisoned patient.
3. Management of patients involved in Chemical incidents.
4. Bio-monitoring of chronic exposure of chemicals (Pb, Hg, Pesticides, etc.)
5. Management and Analysis of biological (samples) involved in chemical incidents, Forensic Cases.
6. Forms and Schedules involved in National Poisons Information Service.

*All enquiries should be addressed to*

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTER OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
GENDER, ELDERLY AND CHILDREN



**GOVERNMENT CHEMIST  
LABORATORY AGENCY**

ISO 9001:2008  
ISO 17025:2005

**FORENSIC SCIENCE AND  
DNA SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**POISON  
Help**



**National Poison Control Centre  
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