

European Dimension of Poisons Centre Documentation

Alexander Campbell

General Secretary EAPCCT /
National Poisons Information Service (London)

Introduction

Information - documentation and dissemination

- ◆ Product information
- ◆ Case experience

Recognised by poisons centres as important for advancing:

- ◆ understanding of mechanisms of poisons and their effects
- ◆ improving management for poisoning cases

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

2

EAPCCT constitution

Aims and Objectives

1. “facilitate the collection, exchange and dissemination of relevant information among individual members, poison centres and organisations interested in clinical toxicology”

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

3

EAPCCT constitution

Aims and Objectives

2. “promote training in, and set standards for the practice of, clinical toxicology and to encourage high standards in poisons centres and in the management of poisoned patients generally”

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

4

EAPCCT constitution

Aims and Objectives

3. “establish and maintain effective collaboration with governments, governmental organisations, professional bodies and other groups or individuals concerned with clinical toxicology, particularly those working in poisons centres in all countries in Europe”

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

5

Are these aims met?

- ◆ Case experience and data.

* The scientific meetings and congresses of the various national and international toxicological associations fulfil these objectives – particularly:

- » sharing experience of cases of severe, fatal or unusual poisonings
- » debating and reaching consensus on best practice for management.

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

6

Are these aims met?

- ◆ Product data
 - * Congresses / meetings not the best forum
 - » except for highlighting cases related to certain products or constituents
 - * National arrangements in some countries meet the objectives – many using electronic networking
 - * Relaxation of borders within Europe means products may “travel” further & industry will encourage this
 - » International arrangements – a logical step?

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

7

International data exchange

- * Advantages
 - » Minimise duplication of effort / Optimise limited financial resources
 - » Industry need provide data to one body but be assured of widespread access by poison centres.
- * Various attempts / projects (some EC funded) have been undertaken over the last decade or more
- * The problems – robustness / compatibility

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

8

ENS - aims

Electronic exchange of information among poison centres

- ◆ description of cases with atypical clinical features
- ◆ product components
- ◆ rapid contact with governmental health administrations in order to launch possible alerts

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

9

ENS

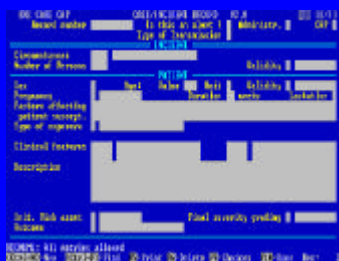
- ◆ Dial-up Modem technology
- ◆ Specially designed interfaces for each function to surmount language barriers
- ◆ Transmission via terminal on National Care Network Nodes and X25 communication network
- ◆ Use restricted to authorised parties only
- ◆ Respect for manufacturer confidentiality

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

10

ENS



10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

11

Data and poisons centre advice

- ◆ Availability of product data enables poisons centre advice to be given with a greater degree of certainty / confidence.
- ◆ Reference to such data, when available, must be regarded as “good practice”.
- ◆ Does / has lack of availability of product data demonstrably affected management and, more importantly, outcome in past cases?
- ◆ Would a more coordinated approach improve management and case outcome in the future?
- ◆ Surveillance

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

12

The Internet / WWW

Demonstrated its worth in:

- ◆ making information available to a wide audience
- ◆ achieving interactive electronic communication
- ◆ overcoming many of the issues of compatibility

Poisons centres have utilised this technology:

- ◆ developed interactive websites and databases for their users and staff
- ◆ developed discussion groups for communication between themselves

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

13

Considerations

We should not forget some of the lessons of the past projects in addressing the issues of today.

- ◆ Data for storage and retrieval must be standardised or harmonised so that users:
 - * have confidence in it
 - * can reliably interpret it
 - * can easily compare it with their own experience.
- ◆ Industry will wish to be satisfied of commercial confidentiality.

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

14

Considerations

- ◆ Content.
 - * Balance between coverage and comprehensiveness of data.
 - * Need to establish the appropriate data-set.
 - * Coverage appropriate for all participating centres.
 - * Language / adaptability for local needs
- * Case reporting / surveillance linked to product / constituent(s)

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

15

International considerations

- ◆ Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals
Agenda 21 - Chapter 19 - Rio Earth Summit 1992 - programme areas:
 - * Expanding & accelerating international risk assessment
 - * Harmonisation of chemical classification and labelling
 - * Information exchange on toxic chemical and risks
 - * Establish risk reduction programmes
 - * Strengthen national capabilities / capacities for chemical management
 - * Prevention of illegal traffic in toxic/dangerous products
- (<http://www.jpc.org/habitat/agenda21/a21-19.htm>)

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

16

The European Dimension

- ◆ A collaborative venture could be seen to meet the EAPCCT objectives.
- ◆ It may be that the EAPCCT could secure some funding / sponsorship for this project as an organisation representing many poisons centres Europe-wide, provided the membership actively request / approve this.

10.09.02

EAPCCT / NPIS (London)

17