

POISONING

Managing poisoning

Signs & symptoms

Signs and symptoms depend on the nature of the poisons which may be ingested, inhaled, absorbed or injected into the body.

- abdominal pain
- drowsiness
- burning pains from mouth to stomach
- difficulty breathing
- tight chest
- blurred vision
- odours on breath
- change of skin colour with blueness around the lips
- sudden collapse

WARNING

DO NOT induce vomiting unless advised to do so by Poisons Information Centre.

DO NOT give anything by mouth.

Wash substances off mouth and face with water.

Management

▼ Unconscious patient

1. Follow DRSABCD

2. Ensure call for ambulance has been made—triple zero (000)

3. Call fire brigade

- if atmosphere contaminated with smoke or gas

▼ Conscious patient

1. Follow DRSABCD

2. Listen to patient

- give reassurance but not advice

3. Try to determine type of poison taken

4. Call 13 11 26 for Poisons Information Centre

5. Send any vomit, containers and/or suicide notes with patient to hospital

In an emergency, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance

For more information on St John first aid training and kits, visit www.stjohn.org.au or freecall 1300 360 455