



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING

P.O. Box 40970, Olympia, Washington 98504-0970  
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February 9, 2011

Dear licensed child care provider,

In July 2008, licensed child care providers were notified by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) of the Syrup of Ipecac shortage and the ability to keep an expired bottle in their first aid kits. If providers did not have Syrup of Ipecac both providers and licensors were instructed to contact the Washington Poison Center to learn about recommended alternatives.

We have learned from the Washington Poison Center that these preventative calls are unnecessary. If your licensor finds that you do not have Syrup of Ipecac, a compliance agreement will be written indicating:

- The lack of Syrup of Ipecac and the apparent shortage
- The Washington Poison Center toll-free number: 1-800-222-1222
- In the event of a poison accident, the provider will immediately call the Washington Poison Center
- A timetable for when the provider can obtain the Syrup of Ipecac.

Until licensing rules change or the supply increases, we are asking DEL licensors to continue encouraging providers to keep expired bottles. Syrup of Ipecac has been found online and in some stores carrying pharmaceutical products.

Thank you for keeping the children in your programs safe, healthy and happy. Please call your licensor if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Hamilton  
Deputy Director  
Department of Early Learning