

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Illinois Poison Center Experts Host Four Week Twitter Chat Series**

Chicago, IL (March 6, 2011) – March is Illinois Poison Prevention Month. To observe this awareness month, the Illinois Poison Center experts will host a four week Twitter chat series, starting March 8<sup>th</sup>, on various poison-related topics. Participants will have an opportunity to engage with experts by directly asking questions and receiving useful poison prevention information. This chat series presents an opportunity for the general public to ask questions before an emergency occurs.

WHAT: Illinois Poison Center Twitter Chat Series

WHEN: Every Thursday in March, starting March 8, 2012, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

#### Schedule

- **March 8** - “Bringing up baby” - Q & A on best practices and tips for creating and maintaining a poison-free home and play environment. Our experts will also discuss common calls and help you determine when you should call the poison center.
- **March 15** - “Snakes and spiders, Oh my!” - For all our nature-lovers, our experts will offer prevention tips just in time for spring.
- **March 22** - “Say it ain’t drugs or alcohol” - Get more information about the synthetic drugs. The IPC’s medical director will lead the Q & A.
- **March 29** – Safe medication management – Q& A about medication management within your home.

WHERE: Follow the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag: #poisonctrchat  
Not a Twitter user? You can still follow the conversation on tweetchat.com

WHO: Each chat will be lead by one of the following IPC experts:

- Sharon Cook, Call Center Expert, PIP
- Jerome Dimaano, Call Center Expert, CSPI
- Dr. Sean Bryant, Associate Medical Director
- Dr. Mike Wahl, Medical Director
- Dr. Carol DesLauriers, Operations Director

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For more information about the Illinois Poison Center visit, [www.illinoispoisoncenter.org](http://www.illinoispoisoncenter.org) or call 1-800-222-1222. Follow the IPC on Twitter @ILPoisonCenter.

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*The Illinois Poison Center is a non-profit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour hotline staffed by specially trained doctors, nurses and pharmacists.*

*The nation's oldest and largest poison center, the IPC is the state's leading source of advanced toxicology training and consultation to healthcare professionals. The IPC also educates the general public on poison prevention and potentially harmful substances via community outreach and online training programs.*

*Through its services, the IPC saves lives, improves patient care and saves the people of Illinois an estimated \$50 million annually in unnecessary healthcare costs by reducing 911 calls, doctor and ER visits, and time spent in hospitals.*

*The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.*