

National Pesticide Competency Guidelines for Medical & Nursing Education

National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical & Nursing Practice

Americans look to their primary health care providers for guidance and expertise to deal with all health conditions, including environmental health issues. Most health professionals, however, do not have adequate knowledge and tools to address patients' and communities' environmental health concerns, including pesticides—because they have not yet received focused education or training in diagnosing, and treating pesticides-related illness. Pesticide poisonings in the U.S. remain underrecognized and undertreated. Pesticides are everywhere—in our homes, workplaces, schools, and agricultural areas, affecting virtually all populations across America.

National Pesticide Competency Guidelines for Medical & Nursing Education and *National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical & Nursing Practice* are part of the **National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative**. The goal of the **Initiative** is to improve the recognition, management, and prevention of health effects from pesticide poisonings and exposures, by improving health professionals' pesticide education, practice skills, and resources. These Guidelines are:

- Targeted specifically toward front-line health care professionals—primary care physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse mid-wives
- Filled with practical strategies for introducing environmental health issues into saturated curricula and professional development offerings
- A model for faculty and administrators to integrate specific pesticides issues—and environmental health issues overall—into education and training
- Authored by expert clinicians and academicians, including representatives of American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators
- Peer-reviewed

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These Guidelines provide possible ‘points of insertion’ for each competency and recommend that pesticide content be integrated into existing curricula.

Highlights include:

- “primer” on pesticide regulation, use, exposures, and absorption
- sample curricular components as “points of insertion,” such as environmental or preventive medicine electives, and public sector medicine courses
- defined levels for individual competencies
- role of faculty development in advancing pesticide-related curriculum
- five specific educational competencies

Competencies:

- knowledge and concepts of pesticides
- diagnosis and assessment, including taking an environmental history
- treatment, intervention, and referrals
- risk communication
- reporting requirements and regulations

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These Guidelines detail opportunities for incorporating pesticide issues into the ongoing practice of health care and within the context of individuals’ continued education.

Highlights include:

- “primer” on pesticide regulation, use, exposures, and absorption
- literature review
- detailed ideas for incorporating pesticide issues into practice areas
- key principles of adult education
- six recommended practice skill areas, including information content and a sampling of relevant resources.

Practice Skills:

- taking an environmental history
- awareness of community and individual pesticide risk factors
- knowledge of key health principles
- clinical management of pesticide exposure
- reporting pesticide exposure and supporting surveillance efforts
- providing prevention guidance and education to patients

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National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative

are available in PDF format at <http://www.neefusa.org/health/pesticides/implplan.htm>.

Printed copies of the Guidelines are available in limited quantities.

Extensive pesticide resources can be found at
<http://www.neefusa.org/health/pesticides/index.htm>

For more information, contact:
The National Environmental Education Foundation
health@neefusa.org
Tel: 202-833-2933
www.neefusa.org