

Contents

Preface	v
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	xi
I. Policy overview	
<hr/>	
1. Poison information centres: their role in the prevention and management of poisoning	3
History	3
Functions	4
Benefits	10
Conclusions and recommendations	10
II. Technical guidance	
<hr/>	
2. Information services	19
Organization and operation	19
Location, facilities, and equipment	22
Staff	24
Financial aspects	27
Research	28
3. Clinical services	29
Introduction	29
Clinical toxicology units	31
Staff	33
Recommendations	36
4. Analytical toxicology and other laboratory services	38
Introduction	38
Functions of an analytical toxicology service	38
Location, facilities, and equipment	39
Staff	41
5. Toxicovigilance and prevention of poisoning	44
Introduction	44
Toxicovigilance and prevention programmes	45
Recommendations	47

6. Response to major emergencies involving chemicals	50
Introduction	50
Information	51
Treatment	51
Contingency planning	51
Education and training	52
Follow-up studies	52
Financial support	52
Collaboration between centres	53
7. Antidotes and their availability	54
Introduction	54
Scientific aspects	55
Technical aspects	56
Economic aspects	57
Registration and administrative requirements	57
Considerations of time and geography	58
Special problems of developing countries	60
Antidotes for veterinary use	60
Improving availability	61
8. Model formats for collecting, storing, and reporting data	64
Substance records	64
Product records	64
Communications records	64
Annual reports	65
9. Library requirements for poison information centres	66
Books	66
Journals	71
Publications of international organizations	72
Computerized databases	73
Educational material	73

Annexes

1. Summary description of the IPCS INTOX Package	77
2. Classified lists of antidotes and other agents	82
3. Example of a substance record: chemical	87
4. INTOX product record	91
5. INTOX communication record and miniform	95
6. Proposed format for a poison centre annual report	101
7. Environmental Health Criteria series	108