

Phosgene Oxime (CHCl₂NO) Patient Information Sheet

This handout provides information and follow-up instructions for persons who have been exposed to phosgene oxime.

What is phosgene oxime?

Phosgene oxime is a colorless, crystalline solid or a yellowish-brown liquid. It is classified as a urticant or nettle chemical warfare agent; however, it has not been used on the battlefield.

What immediate health effects can be caused by exposure to phosgene oxime?

Phosgene oxime causes immediate and painful skin and eye lesions. Inhalation causes fluid to accumulate in the lungs and severe bronchitis.

Can phosgene oxime poisoning be treated?

There is no antidote for phosgene oxime. Its effects can be treated in the same way as burns from other causes (e.g., strong acids). Exposed persons may need to be hospitalized.

Are any future health effects likely to occur?

There is no information evaluating future health effects.

What tests can be done if a person has been exposed to phosgene oxime?

There are no specific tests to confirm exposure.

Where can more information about phosgene oxime be found?

Phosgene oxime is one of the least well studied chemical warfare agents; therefore, specific information is limited. More information about phosgene oxime may be obtained from your regional poison control center; the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); your doctor; or a clinic in your area that specializes in toxicology or occupational and environmental health. Ask the person who gave you this form for help locating these telephone numbers.

Follow-up Instructions

Keep this page and take it with you to your next appointment. Follow *only* the instructions checked below.

Call your doctor or the Emergency Department if you develop any unusual signs or symptoms within the next 24 hours, especially:

- coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath
- increased pain or discharge from injured eyes
- increased redness, pain, or a pus-like discharge from injured skin

No follow-up appointment is necessary unless you develop any of the symptoms listed above.

Call for an appointment with Dr. _____ in the practice of _____.
When you call for your appointment, please say that you were treated in the Emergency Department at _____ Hospital by _____ and were advised to be seen again in _____ days.

Return to the Emergency Department/ _____ Clinic on (date) _____ at _____ AM/PM for a follow-up examination.

Do not perform vigorous physical activities for 1 to 2 days.

You may resume everyday activities including driving and operating machinery.

Do not return to work for _____ days.

You may return to work on a limited basis. See instructions below.

Avoid exposure to cigarette smoke for 72 hours; smoke may worsen the condition of your lungs.

Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages for at least 24 hours; alcohol may worsen injury to your stomach or have other effects.

Avoid taking the following medications: _____

You may continue taking the following medication(s) that your doctor(s) prescribed for you: _____

Other instructions: _____

- Provide the Emergency Department with the name and the number of your primary care physician so that the ED can send him or her a record of your emergency department visit.

- You or your physician can get more information on the chemical by contacting: _____ or _____, or by checking out the following Internet Web sites: _____; _____.

Signature of patient _____ Date _____

Signature of physician _____ Date _____