

Meth Lab Awareness: Health and Safety Issues for Homecare Patients Satellite Conference and Live Webcast Wednesday, April 11, 2007 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

3:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

Meth labs are sometimes referred to as clandestine laboratories. The primary purpose of these labs is to illegally manufacture and distribute controlled substances, which present a variety of hazards including chemical and fume exposure. The chemicals found at these sites are very potent and can enter the Central Nervous System. Once the chemicals have entered the CNS, they may cause neural damage and affect the liver and kidneys.

Many people are perhaps unaware that they are living near a meth lab. Most labs are found in rural cities and suburban residences. Individuals involved in these illegal activities often use barns, garages, and other out buildings, back rooms of businesses, apartments, hotel and motel rooms, storage facilities, vacant buildings and sometimes vehicles. These labs are characteristically small and make use of common household appliances, glassware and chemicals that are readily available.

Methamphetamine starts with an inactive compound known as a precursor substance. A precursor substance is a compound that is inactive in nature and when combined with another chemical it produces a new drug. In the case of methamphetamine, the precursor is ephedrine or pseudophedrine and the chemicals added to create the new drug consist of starting fluid, Drano, alcohol and paint thinner, over-the-counter cold and asthma medications containing ephedrine or pseudophedrine, red phosphorus, hydrochloric acid, battery acid and antifreeze.

Some of the ways to identify a meth lab are unusually strong odors (i.e., ether, ammonia acetone or other chemicals); residences with windows blacked-out; people coming and going at unusual times; and excessive trash (including large amounts of fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaners and duct tape).

The focus of the presentation is to make the Home Health Aides and Home Attendants aware of the dangers and signs and symptoms of a meth lab in or around their patients' homes.

Program Objectives:

1. Define clandestine methamphetamine laboratory.
2. List three common locations for a meth lab.
3. List three exterior recognition clues to indicate a meth lab in operation.
4. Define the protective actions to take if signs are present which could indicate a meth lab in the homecare patient's physical environment.
5. Discuss the health effects of a meth lab on patients and the Home Health Aide and Home Attendant in the area of a meth lab.

Faculty:

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Satellite Conference and Webcast Details:

Target Audience: Home Health Aides & Home Attendants

Registration: www.adph.org/alphtn

Cost: There is no cost to view.

Contact Hours: Social Workers (1.75 Hours).

Satellite Technical Information: Ku & C bands.

Webcast Information: Register at www.adph.org/alphtn

To view the webcast, you need RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. Test your computer before the day of the program from the "test connection" link at www.adph.org/alphtn. On the day of the program, go to www.adph.org/alphtn

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program.

Questions For Faculty: If you have questions that you want addressed during the conference, you may fax or email those questions and a response will be given during the program.

Email: alphtnquestions@adph.state.al.us or

Fax: 888-737-1972.

Conference Detail Questions: If you have questions about any of these conference details, call 334-206-5618 or email: alphtn@adph.state.al.us