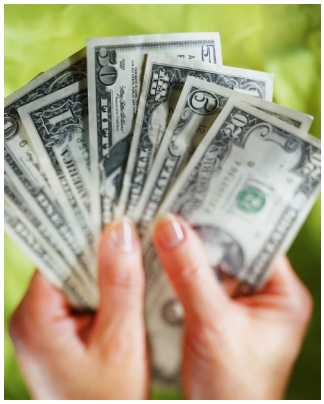
The Blue Ridge Poison Center: *a good value*

Poison Centers don't just save lives, they save money. By treating over 85% of our poison hotline callers at home, we are able to prevent costly and unnecessary medical expenses to both callers and tax payers. In addition, studies show that when hospitals seek our treatment recommendations for poisoned patients in their care, patients spend less time in the hospital. *According to the Institute of Medicine, every dollar spent on poison control center services saves $7-$36 in medical spending.* We estimate we save Virginians over $10 million each year by avoiding unnecessary spending.



Funding Challenges: You Can Help!

The Blue Ridge Poison Center is primarily funded by the University of Virginia Health System. We also receive some funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Virginia Department of Health.

Our call volume has increased steadily each year (up 34% since 1996). The incidence of poisoning continues to grow; in Virginia, poisoning is the second leading injury that results in hospitalization, and the third leading cause of injury death. We continue to provide around-the-clock expert medical advice and other services *for free* to nearly 2.4 million Virginians, in spite of several years' worth of cutbacks from all major funding sources.

Like everyone in this challenging economic climate, we've tightened our belts. But we cannot sustain the same high quality level of service if our budget suffers more loss.

If you value the Blue Ridge Poison Center, please take action:

- **Contact** your state and federal lawmakers and encourage them to continue to support poison centers.
- **Share your story**. Visit the American Association of Poison Control Centers homepage to tell the world why you love your poison center! www.aapcc.org

~ Thank you ~