

## National Poisons Information Service

**Press Release – published 08/03/2019**

### **Risk of death and severe harm from ingesting superabsorbent polymer gel granules (2019)**

Superabsorbent polymer gel granules are used to reduce spillage onto bedding and clothing when patients use urine bottles or vomit bowls, or when staff move fluid-filled containers (eg washbowls and bedpans). If the gel granules are put in the mouth, they expand on contact with saliva risking airway obstruction.

In 2017, NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert after the death of one patient and since then 12 further incidents have been reported and 2 further deaths have occurred.

If you are treating a patient who you suspect has been exposed to this product, please [contact us](#) if you require specialist advice.