

Message for GPs

(Communicated May 2004 – No further action required)

To be disseminated through the General Practice Division of Victoria 'Friday Fax' which is emailed to all members each week.

Domestic gas installation related deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning (CO) have occurred in WA, NSW, NZ and Victoria in recent times, and failure to diagnose prior symptoms is a common thread. A survey in the UK found that not one of 200 GPs offered CO poisoning when given a list of typical symptoms.

You can find a video 'Medical practitioners guidance on diagnosis and treatment of CO in patients' and other useful information on CO poisoning at the UK HSE Website
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/information.htm>

The Office of Gas Safety urges all medical practitioners to be familiar with the symptoms of CO poisoning, and to consider the possible involvement of a gas appliance. Alert the Office of any suspect gas installation so that it can be checked (1800 652 563, email inquiries@ogs.vic.gov.au).