



## TOXIC ALCOHOLS

### I. Protocol Overview

Toxic alcohols are a class of compounds that are often used for chemical manufacturing or as anti-freezes. Ingestion of toxic alcohols (methanol, ethylene glycol, or other glycols) may result in symptoms similar to those of ethanol inebriation (vomiting, lethargy, or coma). A high anion gap metabolic acidosis is common. Renal failure is common after ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol toxicity, whereas optic neuritis and visual impairment are unique to methanol toxicity. Treatment options do exist, including Fomepizole.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

Gas Chromatography Mass spectrometry (GC/MS) methods are used to detect the blood toxic alcohols present in the sample. Sample components are separated through protein precipitation and extraction and then quantified using mass spectrometry analysis. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) methods are used to detect toxic alcohols in environmental and food samples.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

### II. Contact Information

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

### III. CDC Website

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/toxicalcohols/casedef.asp>