

To Whom It May Concern,

In recent weeks, the Canadian Surveillance System for Poison Information (CSSPI)ⁱ and Canadian Poison Centres have raised a safety signal regarding ocular exposures associated with multiple brands of micellar water.

This information is being shared with you to raise awareness and to consider potential mitigation measures (consumer education, modifying product packaging or labelling) to reduce the likelihood of consumer mix-ups between contact lens solutions and micellar water.

In several instances, individuals exposed to micellar water in the eye experienced significant ocular symptoms such as redness, irritation, soreness, blurred vision, and stinging. Approximately 41% of cases required referral from the Poison Centre to a Health Care Facility, with some patients needing urgent ophthalmology consultation.

Notably, 72% of these exposures occurred due to mistaking micellar water for contact lens solution. The remaining cases resulted from direct ocular contact during routine product use.

Below is a summary of reported ocular exposure cases involving micellar water, based on data from four of the five Canadian Poison Centres:

Micellar Water Ocular Exposures* Jan 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025		National (Data from 4 Poison Centers)	
		Count	%
Total number of ocular exposure cases		29	
Number of cases involving mix-up with contact lens solution		21	72.4%
Number of cases referred to or in/enroute to *Health Care Facility		12	41.4%
*Extraction criteria for micellar ocular exposure cases: key word "MICELLAR" in substance verbatim search; only keep route of exposure Ocular; data from Jan 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025 * A Health Care Facility includes an acute care hospital, hospital-based emergency department, a free-standing emergency clinic, first aid station (with a physician in attendance), a physician's office or clinic (with a physician in attendance).			

Manufacturers & Importers are encouraged to promote [Canada's toll-free 1-844 POISON-X](#) number with their customers. For Poison Centre access Canadians can contact 1-844 POISON-X, in Quebec 1-800-463-5060, or contact your local poison centre directly.

Poison Centres are the 24/7 focal point for the public and medical professionals to access treatment advice for toxic exposures. These Centres are staffed with medical toxicologists, registered nurses and pharmacists who are specialists in poison information. More information on Poison Centres and the Canadian Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicology can be found at infopoison.ca.

Information above has been provided by the CSSPI program and Canadian Poison Centres.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Consumer Product Safety Program - Cosmetics Unit
Consumer and Hazardous Products Safety Directorate
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch
Health Canada

¹ **The Canadian Surveillance System for Poison Information (CSSPI)** is a program led by Health Canada in collaboration with Canadian Poison Centres and Provincial and Territorial Health Organizations. Its purpose is to aggregate, analyze, and interpret data from Poison Centres nationwide. By doing so, CSSPI delivers timely safety signals and pan-Canadian trend insights that help inform poison prevention, clinical treatment, and harm reduction.