

Accurate and timely identification of fungi exposures improves risk assessment and guides clinical management

## Is identification of fungi required?

1. Obtain information about the site of fungus harvesting (particularly the presence or absence of oak trees in the harvesting area)
2. Obtain information regarding the nature of the patient's symptoms, intent of ingestion, and timing of symptom onset post ingestion
3. Contact the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26

## Taking images of fungi

1. Take at least two photographs of the fungus from different angles
2. Ensure good lighting and focus
3. Fill the viewfinder frame with the fungus being photographed
4. Take photos of the most complete specimen with views from the top, side (with whole length of the stem) and the underside of the cap (gills)
5. Include an item for scale, for example a coin or a ruler

## Collecting and storing samples of fungi

1. Pick the whole fungus, including the base and any underground portion
2. Wrap the fungus loosely in a piece of paper towel / tissue paper
3. Place the material in a sealed plastic container or paper bag

***Do not store the fungi within a plastic bag, as the tissue will deteriorate***

4. Seal the container and label it to prevent others from ingesting it
5. Refrigerate the material at 4-8 degrees Celsius until transported

**ALTHOUGH *AMANITA PHALLOIDES* IS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF POISONOUS FUNGI GROWING IN VICTORIA, IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST DEATHS**

### Features of *Amanita Phalloides*

- Lamellae (gills) white
- Pileus (cap) whitish, yellow, pale brown or green, 40-160 mm in diameter
- Annulus (ring) present on stipe
- Volva (cup) present at base of stipe
- In Australia, *Amanita Phalloides* has only been documented growing under Oak trees

