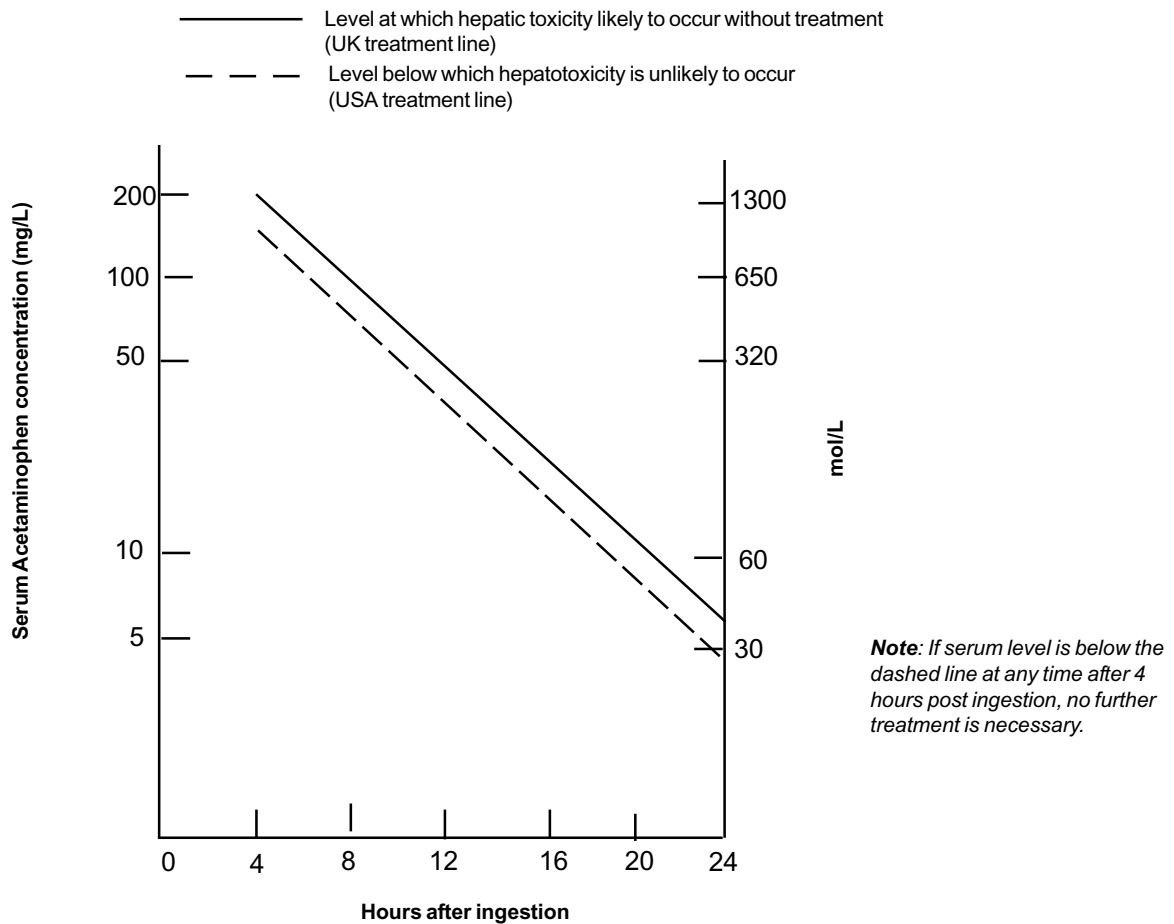


## Appendix 4. Nomogram to guide NAC use in acetaminophen poisoning



### Limitations

- Serum acetaminophen levels taken prior to 4 hours post-ingestion cannot be interpreted due to ongoing drug absorption and distribution. Conversely, patients presenting late may have undetectable concentrations in spite of taking a lethal dose.
- The nomogram is not predictive of toxicity in chronic ingestion (repeated supratherapeutic ingestion over >8 hours).
- At-risk populations known to have aberrant acetaminophen metabolism (e.g., chronic alcohol users, patients on P450 altering drugs) are not taken into account.
- Accurate risk assessment depends on accurate time of ingestion—this information is not always available or reliable.

### Sources:

Buckley N, Eddleston M. Paracetamol (acetaminophen) poisoning. *Clin Evid* 2005;14:1-7.  
 Mokhlesi B, Leikin JB, Murray P, Corbridge TC. Adult toxicology in critical care: Part II: specific poisonings. *Chest* 2003;123(3):897-922.  
 Rumack BH, Matthew H. Acetaminophen poisoning and toxicity. *Pediatrics* 1975;55:871-876.

**Note:** This plot is semi-logarithmic. A more detailed electronic version of the adapted Rumack-Matthew nomogram can be accessed at <http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mmanual/figures/263fig1.jsp>

