

# Recent Publications

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## French Pharmacopoeia 10th edition, 4th supplement

**France** — The 4th supplement of the 10th edition of the French Pharmacopoeia has recently been published. Several chapters have been revised or modified and a new chapter is included on drug interactions. Among the 272 monographs contained in the volume, 96 are new. An interesting insight is provided into the pace at which international collaboration is now developing in this field: almost three quarters of the monographs presented conform to the European Pharmacopoeial specifications.

**Reference:** Pharmacopée française, Xe édition, 4e supplément. *Industrie Santé*, No. 122, p. 32, May 1987.

## Pharmaceuticals classified as narcotic substances on sale in Europe

The Council of Europe has published the 25th edition of *Proprietary and other pharmaceuticals classified as narcotic substances and on sale in the 21 Member States of the Council of Europe (position as 1 April 1986)*. The document has been prepared by the Committee of Experts on Pharmaceutical Questions (Partial Agreement) and contains two lists:

- List 1 adopts a common official nomenclature for narcotic substances which are classified in alphabetical order under the Latin version of the agreed international nonproprietary names.
- List 2 is an updated inventory of proprietary pharmaceutical products on sale in Member States which are controlled under the international narcotics conventions.

**Reference:** *Proprietary and other pharmaceuticals classified as narcotic substances and on sale in the 21 Member States of the Council of Europe (position as 1 April 1986)*. Strasbourg 1986.

## USAN and USP Dictionary of drug names - 1988 edition

**United States of America** — The 1988 edition of this volume provides a comprehensive list of more than 20,000 nationally "established names" of pharmaceutical substances that is derived from the list of US Adopted Names complemented by names drawn from the *US Pharmacopoeia* and the *US National Formulary*. 4948 international non-proprietary names (INN) selected by WHO are also included as well as approximately 2500 graphic formulas. Additionally, more than 5600 brand names of products produced by research-oriented firms are listed. These names are cross-indexed in the main list by pharmacological-therapeutic categories.

**Reference:** *USAN and USP Dictionary of Drug Names*, 1988 edition, The United States Pharmacopoeia, 12601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852, USA.

## Manual on drug supply for developing countries

The Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique (FIP) and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA) have sponsored the publication of the second edition of a manual for developing countries entitled "Management of drug purchasing, storage and distribution".

The distinction between "vital drugs", which include analgesics, and "essential drugs", which embrace preparations for less severe diseases, creates a distinction which is confusing rather than illuminating, and some statements like "quality defects are rare since the manufacturer is, in his own interest, keen to sell perfect goods" have an idealistic ring. However, the manual provides useful information on drug storage and distribution, transport and training of personnel. Of particular

interest are the chapters on the cold chain for vaccines and sera, and on improving distribution and communication at primary health care level.

**Reference:** *Management of drug purchasing, storage and distribution*. Manual for developing countries. Second revised edition. Available from International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, 67 rue Saint-Jean, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

## Self-medication in Benin

**Benin** — An urgent need to promote better standards of self-medication is called for in a doctoral thesis recently submitted by Aubert-Stéphane Akangah to the National University of Benin. Almost three quarters of the individuals interviewed in a survey of 275 urban households in Cotonou tried to solve their health problems by self-medication. Many others visited a health centre, a traditional healer or a religious sect. Over half the households kept a box containing pharmaceutical products of which over a third were remnants of previous prescriptions. The main "stand-bys" were analgesics, antimalarials, laxatives, anti-diarrhoeal agents, anthelmintics, antibiotics and "tonics". Out of the total of 291 pharmaceutical products catalogued in the survey only 25 were on the national list of essential drugs.

**Reference:** A. S. Akangah. *Automédication en milieu urbain béninois - A propos d'une enquête auprès de 275 ménages*. Thèse de Doctorat en Médecine, Université National du Bénin, Faculté des Sciences de la Santé.

## Guidelines for the review of dependence-producing drugs

Guidelines for the WHO review of dependence-producing psychoactive substances for international control are available on request from the World Health Organization.

**Reference:** Document MNH/PAD/86.5, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

## An index to GMP regulations

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Information and Quality Assurance (Budapest, Hungary) has compiled, in Drug Regulation Index No.4, a bibliography of documents, guidelines and regulations relating to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as published by international organizations and national regulatory authorities.

**Reference:** *Drug Regulation Index No.4*, 1987, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Scherfigsvej 8, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

## Drug registration in Singapore

**Singapore** — The Ministry of Health has issued a guide that provides an overview on how the registration system required under the 1975 Medicines Act will be implemented. The booklet describes in detail the different types of licences that will be required for manufacturing and marketing pharmaceutical products, the certification procedures required for importing and exporting supplies, and general requirements to be observed in record-keeping when products are recalled or their licences are varied, suspended or revoked.

Initially, the following groups of items will be exempted from registration:

- Traditional medicines,
- Homoeopathic medicines,
- Raw materials,
- Locally manufactured products solely for export,
- Products imported for specific treatment of individual persons only (prior approval must be obtained from the Ministry of Health before import).

Once all currently marketed products have been registered a General Sales List will be compiled to indicate which may be sold over-the-counter from outlets other than pharmacies. All other products, including those subjected to prescription control, will be available only from registered pharmacies.

**Reference:** *A Guide on Drug Registration*. Ministry of Health, Singapore 1987.

## Informatics and telematics in health

The pace of development in computer and telecommunications technology is rapidly opening up new possibilities. The impact of this technology, thus far, has been much greater in clinical medicine than in public health, and it is for this reason that WHO has recently issued a manual to apprise national health authorities of the potential uses of informatics in the management of health services, including pharmacy and drug logistics control systems. It includes advice on training personnel in the use of available systems, describes hardware and software packages and offers information on the costs and maintenance of equipment.

**Reference:** *Present & Potential Uses of Informatics and Telematics in Health*. Document ISS/86/36. World Health Organization. 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

## AIDS - The safety of blood and blood products

The need to ensure that donor blood and products derived from it carry no risk of transmitting the viruses responsible for serious diseases has intensified considerably with the advent of AIDS. The various issues that fall to consideration were identified and discussed at a meeting convened by WHO in April 1986, and the proceedings have now been published. Knowledge in this field is fast expanding, but the book retains relevance and brings together in a convenient and interrelated way the various technical and ethical challenges posed by this new disease, many of which remain to be resolved.

**Reference:** *AIDS: The Safety of Blood and Blood Products*. Proceedings of a WHO Meeting edited by J. C. Petriccioni et al. Published on behalf of the World Health Organization by John Wiley & Sons (1987).

## Pharmacists as health counsellors

Pharmacists are in a position to provide much valuable counsel to patients not only on the treat-

ment of acute self-limiting illnesses, but in broader aspects of health education. It is encouraging to see that more material is being published to assist them in developing this role.

In collaboration with the Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique (FIP), and with the committed support of Prof. P. F. D'Arcy of the Department of Pharmacy, Queens University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, WHO has recently published a booklet for pharmacists on the management of acute diarrhoea in children (1). The focus, inevitably, is upon the need for early and adequate oral rehydration.

A similar initiative has been taken within the United Kingdom where the Pharmaceutical Society has published a guide on drug abuse (2). In parallel with this it has also published a report of a study undertaken in the United Kingdom on the pharmacist's role in preventing drug abuse (3). Experience gained in a series of seminars has left no doubt that pharmacists have the ability and will to evaluate and provide information on drugs of abuse and that there is an evident demand for their advice.

### References

1. The treatment of acute diarrhoea. Information for pharmacists. World Health Organization. 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.
2. Drug Abuse. *Pharmaceutical Journal*, 238: 691 (1987).
3. Derbyshire experience of the pharmacist's role in drug abuse. *Pharmaceutical Journal*, 238: 705 (1987).

## Health Horizons: a new publication of the IFPMA

**Switzerland** — The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA) has changed the format and extended the scope of its newsletter which will be produced three times a year and mailed free of charge on request. The first issue contains an update on the prospects for developing new drugs and vaccines for malaria; profiles of the independent experts who will oversee the IFPMA code of advertising practice; an interview with Dr Machado, Brazil's former Minister of Health; an account of the assistance offered by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries in

the Maldives; an update on AIDS research, and a personal view on the strategy of health care by Dr R. Braumann, President of Médecins sans Frontières.

**Reference:** *Health Horizons*, published by IFPMA, 67 rue Saint-Jean, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

## Medical Horizons: a new publication of the British Healthcare Export Council

**United Kingdom** — The British Healthcare Export Council, which promotes UK exports of healthcare products and services, has announced the publication of a new magazine that will provide commentaries on technological breakthroughs and clinical innovations as well as articles on all aspects of health management, including developments in the British National Health Service, the manufacture and design of equipment, the architecture and maintenance of buildings and information technology as it relates to healthcare.

Details available from: British Healthcare Export Council, 2 Harewood Place, London W1R 9HB, United Kingdom.

## Progress: a newsletter of the WHO Special Programme on Human Reproduction

The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) of the World Health Organization has issued the first issue of a quarterly newsletter entitled "Progress". The aim is to review new information on contraceptives and on social and behavioural issues related to their use. The first issue deals

with the safety of IUDs, the performance of the WHO vaginal ring in Phase III trials and projected clinical trials of an antifertility vaccine. Opportunity is also taken to invite funding applications for relevant research proposals from independent investigators, particularly in developing countries.

**Reference:** *Progress*, c/o HRP, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

## Drug Bulletins Review

The WHO Regional Office for Europe issues occasional reviews containing selected contents from independent drug bulletins, summaries and conclusions of some of the listed articles, technical information released by national regulatory authorities within the Region, and recent WHO publications concerning drugs and drug policies.

**Reference:** *Drug Bulletins Review*, 2 (1987). WHO Regional Office for Europe, Scherfigsvej 8, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

## Essential Drugs Monitor

The fourth issue of the *Essential Drugs Monitor*, a newsletter published by the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs and Vaccines, contains information on the steps to success in essential drugs supply, and commentaries on the progress of the Action Programme in Burundi, the philosophy of the Food and Drug Administration of the United States of America towards generic products, and national drug policies in Nicaragua, the Yemen Arab Republic and the Eastern Caribbean States. It also highlights an interview with Dr Z. Chowdhury of the People's Health Centre at Savar, Bangladesh.

**Reference:** *Essential Drugs Monitor*. No.4, 1987. World Health Organization. 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Coming in January 1988

## Smallpox and its Eradication

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In 31 chapters, *Smallpox and its Eradication* recounts the history of one of humanity's worst diseases, moving from ancient times, through the discovery of vaccination, to the spectacular WHO-led programme that finally vanquished the disease. Authored by experts personally involved in the eradication campaign, the book gives posterity a minutely detailed account of both how the disease once reigned and what was necessary, step by step and country by country, to eliminate the "ancient scourge" once and for all. Virtually everything ever known or believed about the disease, and everything that happened during the global eradication campaign, has been collected and preserved in this richly illustrated account.

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## SMALLPOX and its Eradication

F. Fenner • D. A. Henderson

I. Arita • Z. Ježek • I. D. Ladnyi



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
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1988, approx. 1500 pages, 471 tables,  
275 figures, 316 plates and 84 colourplates  
ISBN 92 4 156110 6

Prepublication price (until 18 January):

Sw.fr. 200.—/US \$120.00

Regular price:

Sw.fr. 250.—/US \$150.00



Published by the World Health Organization

Address orders to: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27,  
Switzerland, or to any of the sales agents listed on inside back cover.