



Family physicians can then pursue further investigation or treatment, or refer patients if needed. When appropriate, a copy of the correspondence can be filed with the patient's chart or included with the consultation referral letter.

This process does not replace referrals. It corresponds to a telephone inquiry or a quick corridor consultation and may allow more convenient and more specific transfer of information and advice with less disruption for both the consulting physician and the specialist. Of course, specialists have to agree to this type of correspondence and have to read their e-mail regularly. Perhaps a list of local specialists willing to offer advice this way would encourage more family physicians to use e-mail. If more people used it, it could save time and unnecessary referrals.

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Received via e-mail

I read this article with a sense of déjà vu. I would like to report a similar experience concerning the use of e-mail to facilitate continuing therapy for patients. In the last 12 months some of my patients, both children

and adults, have communicated with me via e-mail. In particular, they have shared concern about drug management, and I have found that the medium provides an additional way of maintaining contact.

Clearly, issues of confidentiality are still a concern. However, the additional accessibility that e-mail provides, when used with caution, may be a useful support to patients above and beyond telephone contact. My patients have been quite solicitous about not wanting to receive "free" therapy and have appreciated the additional contact. Some made a point of telling me that it was sometimes easier to broach difficult subjects via e-mail before raising the topic during face-to-face therapy.

Have other clinicians had similar experiences?

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### **Malaria in Canada** [correction]

In this article (*Can Med Assoc J* 1997;156:57) the online address for the US Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention travel information web site should have been given as follows: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/travel2.htm> — Ed.

### **Le paludisme au Canada** [correction]

Dans cet article (*Can Med Assoc J* 1997;156:58), l'adresse du site web d'information à l'intention des voyageurs des US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention aurait dû se lire comme suit : <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/travel2.htm> — Réd.

### **U of Manitoba program delivers care to natives, hope to aboriginal students** [correction]

The CMA Special Bursary Program for Aboriginal Medical Students is administered by the association. Incorrect information appeared in this recent article by David Square (*Can Med Assoc J* 1996; 155:1609-11). We apologize for this error. — Ed.

#### **Submitting letters**

Letters must be submitted by mail, courier or e-mail, not by fax. They must be signed by all authors and limited to 300 words in length. Letters that refer to articles must be received within 2 months of the publication of the article. *CMAJ* corresponds only with the authors of accepted letters. Letters are subject to editing and abridgement.

#### **Note to e-mail users**

E-mail should be addressed to [pubs@cma.ca](mailto:pubs@cma.ca) and should indicate "Letter to the editor of *CMAJ*" in the subject line. A signed copy must be sent subsequently by fax or regular mail. Accepted letters sent by e-mail appear in the *CMAJ* Readers' Forum of *CMA Online* immediately, as well as being published in a subsequent issue of the journal.

#### **Pour écrire à la rédaction**

Prière de faire parvenir vos lettres par la poste, par messenger ou par courrier électronique, et non par télécopieur. Chaque lettre doit porter la signature de tous ses auteurs et avoir au maximum 300 mots. Les lettres se rapportant à un article doivent nous parvenir dans les 2 mois de la publication de l'article en question. Le *JAMC* ne correspond qu'avec les auteurs des lettres acceptées pour publication. Les lettres acceptées seront révisées et pourront être raccourcies.

#### **Aux usagers du courrier électronique**

Les messages électroniques doivent être envoyés à l'adresse [pubs@cma.ca](mailto:pubs@cma.ca). Veuillez écrire «Lettre à la rédaction du *JAMC*» à la ligne «Subject». Il faut envoyer ensuite, par télécopieur ou par la poste, une lettre signée pour confirmer le message électronique. Une fois une lettre reçue par courrier électronique acceptée pour publication, elle paraîtra tout de suite dans la chronique «Tribune des lecteurs du *JAMC*» d'*AMC En direct*, ainsi que dans un numéro prochain du journal.