PRACTICE

tainty owing to intra- and interspecies variation and adjusting for additional exposure pathways and the average daily consumption of drinking water, the Federal– Provincial–Territorial Committee on Drinking Water calculated the health-based guideline value of uranium in drinking water to be 10 μ g/L (Box 1). In consideration of the water treatment costs associated with achieving this level and the low health risks associated with exceeding this level minimally, the committee has recommended an interim maximum acceptable concentration of 20 μ g/L. In most jurisdictions in Canada, suppliers of drinking water monitor water quality and comply with the recommended guidelines.¹

Erica Weir

CMAJ

I thank Brian Gibson, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto, for reviewing an earlier draft of this article.

References

- Guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality: supporting documentation uranium. Ottawa: Federal–Provincial– Territorial Committee on Drinking Water; 2001. Available: www.hc-sc.gc .ca/hecs-sesc/water/dwgsup.htm (accessed 2004 Feb 16).
- Zamora ML, Tracy BL, Zielinski JM, Meyerhof DP, Moss MA. Chronic ingestion of uranium in drinking water: a study of kidney bioeffects in humans. *Toxicol Sci* 1998;43 (1):68-77.
- Marshall L, Weir E, Abelsohn A, Sanborn M. Identifying and managing adverse environmental health effects: 1. Taking an exposure history. CMAJ 2002;166(8):1049-55.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Emanuel EJ, Crouch RA, Arras JD, Moreno JD, Grady C, editors. Ethical and regulatory aspects of clinical research: readings and commentary. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; 2004. 490 pp. US\$39.95 ISBN 0-8018-7813-6

Sam AH, Baker CR, Teo JTH, Hameed S. **Medicine**. Rapid series. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 2003. 326 pp. US\$29.95 ISBN 1-4051-0749-9. Tunstall-Pedoe, editor. MON-ICA monograph and multimedia sourcebook: world's largest study of heart disease, stroke, risk factors, and population trends 1979-2002. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2003. 244 pp. US\$40.50 ISBN 92-4-156223-4

Yang KY, Graff LR, Caughey AB. **Pharmacology.** Blueprints Notes and Cases series. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 2003. 187 pp. US\$26.95 ISBN 1-4051-0348-5

Young VB, Kormos WA. Medicine, 3rd ed. Blueprints series. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 2003. 352 pp. \$55.50 ISBN 1-4051-0335-3

Wagner EK, Hewlett MJ. Basic virology, 2nd ed. Malden (MA): Blackwell; 2004. 440 pp. US\$94.95 ISBN 1-4051-0346-9