



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Homoeopathy and malaria prophylaxis

Following the recent media coverage regarding the use of homoeopathic remedies for malaria prophylaxis, pharmacists must ensure that patients who request homoeopathic or herbal remedies to prevent malaria are aware of the risks of not taking recognised antimalarial medicines.

The Faculty of Homeopathy and the Health Protection Agency Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention do not recommend patients to rely on any homoeopathic or herbal remedies for the prevention of malaria as there is no scientific proof that these are effective in preventing malaria.

Although it is for individual patients to make decisions about their health care, pharmacists have an important role in ensuring that these decisions are informed, and that patients have access to necessary information to assist their decisions.

Pharmacists are well placed to discuss fears that patients may have about taking their medicines and should encourage patients to use appropriate preventive measures. Advice on preventing or avoiding bites should also be provided to patients who are travelling to regions where they may be susceptible to malaria. This advice should include wearing long sleeved clothing and long trousers if outdoors after sunset and using mosquito repellents and nets.

Further comments on the issue of homoeopathy and immunisation can be obtained from the Faculty of Homeopathy, Hahnemann House, 29 Park Street West, Luton LU1 3BE (tel 0870 444 3950; fax 0870 444 3960).

Also provided for further assistance are the link to the Health Protection Agency website (www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/malaria/default.htm), which contains guidance on prophylaxis and the link to the Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention homeopathic statement (www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/malaria/homeopathic_statement_260705.htm)

The guidance issued above has been endorsed by the Health Protection Agency and the Faculty of Homeopathy.