



## Survey

### Adverse events associated with paediatric complementary and alternative medicine

An increasing number of Canadian children use “complementary and alternative medicine”, a broad umbrella term for a variety of practices, such as chiropractic, massage therapy, and natural health products (e.g., herbals, homeopathic remedies). Because data regarding adverse events associated with this type of medicine are almost non-existent, especially in children, this survey will be helpful in learning what paediatricians and paediatric subspecialists encounter in practice.

1. How often do you ask patients if they use or have used complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)? \_\_\_\_\_ % of the time

2. How often do patients mention CAM use before you question them about it? \_\_\_\_\_ % of the time

3. In the last year, have you seen an adverse event<sup>1</sup> following CAM use? • No • Yes

If no: Please proceed to question 4.

If yes: How many adverse events? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of CAM was used? (Check all that apply.)

- Spinal manipulation
- Natural health products (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

After a serious adverse event was detected, was the patient

treated? • No • Yes – please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

hospitalized? • No • Yes – please specify length of stay: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the outcome related to the most serious adverse event?

- Spontaneous resolution
- Loss of school/work days
- Permanent disability (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Limitation of daily activities
- Death

4. In the last year, have you seen a delayed diagnosis or treatment due to CAM use in a patient?

• No • Yes – How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Examples/comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> An “adverse event” is any unfavourable and unintended sign (including an abnormal laboratory finding), symptom or disease associated with the use of CAM, whether or not confirmed to be related to the therapy. Two examples are: pain resulting from a spinal manipulation or an anaphylactic reaction to St. John’s Wort. (South, Mike; Cranswick, Noel; and Susan Skull. Protocol Sheet. Adverse Events Associated with the use of Complementary or Alternative Medicine [CAM]. January 2001)

**Please return this survey with your monthly reporting form.**

**Thank you for your participation.**

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