

- 22- Prescrire Rédaction "Les perturbateurs endocriniens. Deuxième partie. Une hypothèse plausible, pas encore vérifiée" *Rev Prescrire* 2011; **31** (331): 378-385.
- 23- Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (Anses) "Effets sanitaires du bisphénol A" Rapport d'expertise collective, September 2011: 311 pages.
- 24- Diamanti-Kandarakis E et al. "Endocrine-disrupting chemicals: an endocrine society scientific statement" *Endocr Rev* 2009; **30** (4): 293-342.
- 25- Kortenkamp A et al. "State of the art assessment of endocrine disruptors. Final Report" 23 December 2011: 135 pages.
- 26- Welshons WV et al. "Large effects from small exposures. I. Mechanisms for endocrine-disrupting chemicals with estrogenic activity" *Environ Health Perspect* 2003; **111** (8): 994-1006.
- 27- Zoeller RT et al. "Endocrine-disrupting chemicals and public health protection: a statement of principles from the endocrine society" *Endocrinology* 2012; **153** (9): 4097-4110.
- 28- Prescrire Rédaction "L'étiquetage des produits chimiques change" *Rev Prescrire* 2010; **30** (325): 867-869.
- 29- Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale "Bisphénol A. Effets sur la reproduction" Rapport préliminaire, 2 June 2010: 90 pages.
- 30- Lang IA et al. "Association of urinary bisphenol A concentration with medical disorders and laboratory abnormalities in adults" *JAMA* 2008; **300** (11): 1303-1310.
- 31- Melzer D et al. "Association of urinary bisphenol A concentration with heart diseases: evidence from NHANES 2003/06" *PLoS One* 2010; **5** (1): e8673, 9 pages.
- 32- Thayer KA et al. "Role of environmental chemicals in diabetes and obesity: a national toxicology program workshop review" *Environ Health Perspect* 2012; **120** (6): 779-789.
- 33- Melzer D et al. "Urinary bisphenol A concentration and risk of future coronary artery disease in apparently healthy men and women" *Circulation* 2012; **125** (12): 1482-1490.
- 34- National Toxicology Program, US Department of Health and Human Services - Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction "NTP-CERHR monograph on the potential human reproductive and developmental effects of Bisphenol A" September 2008: 395 pages.
- 35- Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale "Reproduction et environnement. Synthèse" Expertise collective. Éditions Inserm, June 2011: 64 pages.
- 36- Prescrire Rédaction "Le bisphénol A imprègne toute la population" *Rev Prescrire* 2013; **33** (354): 294-300.
- 37- Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail "L'Anses propose, au niveau européen, un classement plus sévère du bisphénol A en tant que toxique pour la reproduction" Communiqué 26 September 2012: 1 page.
- 38- "Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006" *Official Journal of the European Union* No L 353, 31 December 2008: 1-1355.
- 39- Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail "Note relative aux résultats de l'appel à contributions à la suite de la publication des rapports relatifs aux effets sanitaires et aux usages du bisphénol A (BPA) (septembre 2011) et au recensement des alternatives et/ou substitués au bisphénol A" 8 June 2012: 19 pages.
- 40- "Loi n° 2010-729 du 30 juin 2010 tendant à suspendre la commercialisation de biberons produits à base de bisphénol A (1)" *Journal Officiel* 1 July 2010: 11857.
- 41- Carwile JL et al. "Polycarbonate bottle use and urinary bisphenol A concentrations" *Environ Health Perspect* 2009; **117** (9): 1368-1372.
- 42- Rudel RA et al. "Food packaging and bisphenol A and bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate exposure: findings from a dietary intervention" *Environ Health Perspect* 2011; **119** (7): 914-920.
- 43- Yang ZC et al. "Most plastic products release estrogenic chemicals: a potential health problem that can be solved" *Environ Health Perspect* 2011; **119** (7): 989-996.
- 44- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units "Physician guide to safer plastics: phthalates and bisphenol A" October 2009: 3 pages.
- 45- Melnick R et al. "Summary of the National Toxicology Program's report of the endocrine disruptors low-dose peer review" *Environ Health Perspect* 2002; **110** (4): 427-431.
- 46- Bucher JR et al. "The Office of Health Assessment and Translation: a problem-solving resource for the National Toxicology Program" *Environ Health Perspect* 2011; **119** (5): A196-A197.
- 47- Tharp AP et al. "Bisphenol A alters the development of the rhesus monkey mammary gland" *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012; **109** (21): 8190-8195.
- 48- Prescrire Rédaction "Dispositifs médicaux: la présence des phtalates mentionnée sur l'étiquette" *Rev Prescrire* 2011; **31** (327): 62-63.
- 49- Ministère chargé de la Santé "Bisphénol A (BPA). Recommandations aux femmes enceintes et aux parents de jeunes enfants" November 2011: 4 pages.

Translated from *Rev Prescrire* July 2013; **33** (357): 534

The French Sunshine Act False transparency

France was promised that the Mediator° disaster would represent a watershed. In particular, the relationships that experts and healthcare professionals have with industries in the healthcare sector would be exposed, in order to reduce the conflicts of interest which harm patients and inflate the cost of health care. But ultimately, most of the links that generate conflicts of interest remain hidden.

Backtracking on transparency. France's "drug safety" act, passed in December 2011, does not go far enough when it comes to certain issues. It nevertheless stipulates that the links between companies and other organisations or individuals involved in health care must be disclosed, by making public the existence of any contracts with and benefits in cash or in kind provided to healthcare professionals, patients, students, the media, and scientific societies, etc. (1).

As of August 2012, after a change of government, it was clear that the decree implementing the act would not be ade-

quate to the task (2). For example, the draft decree allowed healthcare professionals to receive €998 per year from each company without disclosure, provided that no single gift or payment was worth more than €59: the price of a meal in a good restaurant.

The draft decree attracted strong criticism, and the version that was finally adopted requires disclosure of all gifts over €10 (3). Why €10, when even small gifts have been shown to influence the recipient, by eliciting goodwill and a need to reciprocate?

But worse yet: "Remuneration, salaries and fees paid for work or services provided are not considered as benefits" (our translation) (4). How easy it will be for healthcare professionals, patient advocacy groups, hospitals and the press, etc. to avoid transparency! And the most important links, those with opinion leaders, who wield so much influence, will still be able to remain in the shadows.

It's time for real transparency. If we are to reduce industry influence, particularly on prescribing behaviour, it is

essential that the benefits, gifts or payments companies provide are brought into the open. If transparency is not considered to apply to healthcare professionals and others who work for or provide services for industries in the healthcare sector, it means, yet again, putting commercial interests before health. It also means continuing to accept industry's powerful influence on decisions in the field of health care.

©Prescrire

Selected references from Prescrire's literature search.

- 1- Prescrire Rédaction "Une loi de "sécurité du médicament" trop faible" *Rev Prescrire* 2012; **32** (342): 292-304.
- 2- Collectif Europe et Médicament "Cadeaux des labos: le recul du gouvernement français?" 25 October 2012: 2 pages.
- 3- "Décret n° 2013-414 du 21 mai 2013 relatif à la transparence des avantages accordés par les entreprises produisant ou commercialisant des produits à finalité sanitaire et cosmétique destinés à l'homme" *Journal Officiel* 22 May 2013: 4 pages.
- 4- Direction générale de la santé "Circulaire n° DGS/PF2/2013/224 du 29 mai 2013 relative à l'application de l'article 2 de la loi n° 2011-2012 du 29 décembre 2011 relative au renforcement de la sécurité sanitaire du médicament et des produits de santé": 13 pages.