



Increased Availability of Plan B (levonorgestrel) Tablets

The US federal court issued an order for the FDA to enable the manufacturer of Plan B to make the drug available to women 17 years of age and older without prescription. The government will not appeal the decision.

To view the FDA statement on Plan B, visit www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW01999.html.

New Pain Recommendations

The American Geriatrics Society issued new pain guidelines to include these recommendations:

- Acetaminophen can be used for initial and ongoing treatment for persistent pain, especially musculoskeletal pain
- NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors should be considered only rarely
- Adjuvant analgesics can be considered to treat fibromyalgia pain in patients
- Opioid therapy should be considered to treat patients with moderate to severe pain, pain-related functional impairment, or diminished quality of life due to pain.

Visit www.americangeriatrics.org/education/final_recommendations.pdf to access the full guideline.

USPSTF Smoking Cessation Guidelines

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued reaffirmation guidelines for smoking prevention and cessation in adults and pregnant women. After reviewing new evidence in the US Public Health Service's 2008 clinical practice guideline, the USPSTF determined that the benefits of smoking cessation interventions in adults and pregnant women remain well-established. The guidelines encourage clinicians to question all adult patients about tobacco use and provide smoking cessation interventions for those using tobacco products.

For more information, visit www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/150/8/551.



Free Swine Flu Patient Education Materials

As a public service, the Patient Education Institute is providing interactive tutorials; videos; and printable handouts in English, Spanish, and Arabic to help educate patients about swine flu. The material is written at a 6th grade reading level, and tutorials include full narration, interactive questions, and feedback to ensure proper understanding. The CDC is also offering free patient education materials, including patient publications, information for specific groups targeted by the swine flu, travel notices and suggestions, and audio and video resources.

To access the Patient Education Institute materials, visit www.patient-education.com/h1n1.asp. To access education information from the CDC, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.