



NSF Discusses Recent AP Report On Pharmaceuticals in Water and Next Steps

Report Creates Consumer Questions on Water Quality

Recent media articles on pharmaceuticals in water have generated questions among consumers about the quality of the U.S.'s drinking water. NSF is currently working with key organizations to help further investigate this issue and offer a solution to consumers.

A key part of our mission is to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions when it comes to looking out for their families' wellbeing. We are working with federal, state and local government agencies, wastewater and drinking water utility officials, product manufacturers and other public health experts to do just that. Current efforts include development of appropriate product standards as well as testing and certification services that help address emerging drinking water quality needs.

There are several groups along with NSF that are coming together to discuss pharmaceuticals in water. On March 20, 2008, NSF hosted a Joint Committee meeting to address this very issue. The Joint Committee is now in the process of setting up a task group to further research the status of pharmaceuticals in water. There are many areas of consideration to examine, including health effects, treatment options and additional requirements that may need to be established.

Currently, federal and state legislation mandates testing and treatment for a wide array of tap water contaminants. A vast majority of public and private water utilities provide drinking water that meets or exceeds U.S. EPA and state drinking water safety standards. Additional legislation is being considered.

While home water treatment systems are not specifically certified to reduce pharmaceuticals at this time, many of [these products](#) can help provide additional protection against a wide array of other contaminants, including arsenic, lead and cysts, sometimes found in drinking water.

New information is available on [NSF's website](#) to help educate consumers and offer guidance on this topic. A [fact kit](#) is also available, which provides additional information about common contaminants in drinking water, as well as tips for selecting bottled water or a home drinking water treatment system.

Background on Associated Press Report

A recent **Associated Press (AP) report** revealed that trace amounts of many different pharmaceuticals have been found in drinking water. In the course of their investigation, members of the AP National Investigative Team indicated they reviewed hundreds of scientific reports, analyzed federal drinking water databases, visited environmental study sites and treatment plants and interviewed more than 230 officials, academics and scientists. They also surveyed the nation's 50 largest cities, a dozen other major water providers and smaller community water providers in all 50 states.

For additional information, visit NSF's consumer website at <http://www.nsf.org/consumer> or contact NSF's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-877-867-3435 or info@nsf.org.