In brief

China approves Viagra: After more than a year of clinical trials, the Chinese state drug administration has approved the use of the anti-impotence drug sildenafil (Viagra). It will be available only on prescription.

UK science to benefit from extra £1bn: Science in the United Kingdom will benefit from a £1bn (\$1.5bn) science research investment fund, with £225m coming from the Wellcome Trust.

Uganda sets life saving example: Uganda has abolished taxes and tariffs on mosquito nets and insecticides used in the fight against malaria. This follows pledges made at the African malaria summit in Nigeria in April to waive malaria related taxes and tariffs.

GP who assaulted patients jailed for eight years: A Nottingham GP, Peter Green, has been jailed for eight years for indecently assaulting male patients for his "perverted and deviant ends." The offences took place at his surgery over 17 years under the guise of medical research. The case is to be investigated by the Commission for Health Improvement.

Royal college issues new pain control guidelines: The Royal College of Physicians has issued new pain control guidelines to ensure that patients get the most appropriate kind of pain relief and correct dosage. The guidelines are on its website (www.rcplondon.ac.uk).

Tuberculosis cases rise in Britain: Fifty new cases of tuberculosis are reported each week in London and two people die, says the charity TB Alert. The charity has called for the BCG vaccination programme to be restarted for 13 and 14 year olds.

Japan investigates food poisoning: The Japanese government is investigating why more than 13 000 consumers have had diarrhoea and vomiting as a result of drinking tainted low fat and calcium rich milk products made at the Snow Brand factory in Osaka.

Unicef accused of forming alliance with baby food industry

Gavin Yamey *BMJ*

Unicef is about to form partnerships with companies that produce infant formula and that do not comply with the international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes, it was claimed this week. Two Unicef employees have resigned in protest, and others are expected to tender their resignations.

A document written by a Unicef employee, who does not wish to be named, states that "decisions have been taken at Unicef's top level to make alliances with pharmaceutical companies ... which market their breast milk substitutes in

disregard [of the code]."

Unicef has previously refused to accept funding from the baby food industry, and it has supported breastfeeding advocacy groups in the developing world.

A new partnership with industry would add to the growing concern among infant feeding specialists that international health agencies, including the World Health Organization, are going too far in their dealings with the private sector (20 May, p 1362).

The International Baby Food Network commented: "There is a need for Unicef to protect its

status as a truly independent advocate for human rights and health for all, and to ensure that its policies, research priorities, and direction are not unduly influenced."

On 4 July Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, sent a memorandum to all Unicef representatives, managers, and directors. In it she said that Unicef will "engage in dialogue with the private sector when it is clear that such an endeavour can contribute to the best interests of the child."

Michael Latham, professor of international nutrition at Cornell University in New York, said: "She [Carol Bellamy] does not seem willing to state that Unicef will not form partnerships with, nor accept funds from, corporations that violate the code." □

Doctor may be extradited to face criminal charges

Clare Dyer *legal correspondent, BMJ*
Owen Dyer *Montreal*

Canadian police have launched an investigation of British gynaecologist Richard Neale which could result in his extradition to Canada to stand trial on criminal negligence charges. Forty women have lodged complaints with the Ontario police, detailing injuries they sustained while under the care of Mr Neale in Canada in the early 1980s.

The gynaecologist is now part way through a hearing on charges of serious professional misconduct at the General Medical Council in London, which could see him struck off the medical register this month. He was suspended from practice by the GMC last year "to protect public safety."

The most serious incident that the Canadian police are investigating is the case of Geraldine Krawchuck, who died during childbirth in 1981 when her uterus ruptured at Oshawa Hospital in Ontario.

According to Detective Sergeant Jim Grimley of Durham Regional Police in

Gynaecologist Richard Neale may face extradition to Canada

Ontario, the number of complaints against Mr Neale has more than doubled in the past few weeks after information on the GMC's case appeared in the Canadian media.

"We have 40 complaints, many of which just came in, so the criminal investigation is still in its early stages. A lot of the medical evidence is very complicated, and all of these events took place at least 15 years ago, so it will probably be quite a while before we know what charges, if any, are appropriate."

British media reports of a potential murder charge are unfounded, said Detective Sergeant Grimley, since Canadian law, like British law,

requires proof of deliberate intent to do serious injury in order for there to be a murder conviction. A lesser charge, such as criminal negligence, could still be enough to justify extradition.

"If the investigation shows grounds for a criminal charge the case will go to the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, who will decide whether or not to apply for extradition," he said.

Mr Neale, who returned to Britain soon after he was struck off the Ontario medical roll in 1985 and who worked at hospitals in North Yorkshire, Leicester, Leeds, London, and the Isle of Wight, also faces civil compensation claims in England and Canada. □