

Codex & AUS

Bogdan,

Sure there are con artists on both sides but foods or food based stuff is generally far far more benign, than the palliative and mostly toxic drugs, except for their striking efficacy and this is what is attracting all the predators. While HC maybe not be fully funded by the industry it entirely depends and behaves on industry inputs... It might as well be funded by it.

At 08:25 AM 12/05/2005, ahoa@homemail.com.au wrote:

Chris

There is a major difference between TGA and HC - the latter is fully funded from the common revenue, and that implies far greater independence from the industry, and obviously vice versa!

Few weeks ago, I had the pleasure to listen to the presentation of HC boss, and not only was she impressive as a presenter but also as a person - she did not have to put on the show, considering that she was "between the wolves". I, and few other people I know, resent the fact that TGA is subject to full cost recovery - but that is the current prevailing political reality - and any change must be enacted in our parliament! HC boss was quite comfortable with not being subject to cost recovery and suggested that such a change was unlikely in Canada! But she was confident that the new controversial act will not be passed!

It appears that Canada has a reasonably democratic system thanks to minority government - pity about the prime minister!
As you may recall, I work for TGA and in fact in the very section which regulates CMs. I know personally everyone involved, including the national manager of TGA, and frankly although there are plenty of "average" individuals (aparatchiks) working here, many are reasonable and knowledgeable people, who do care! I have no idea who pulls the strings behind the scenes, but lets face it - they are clearly being pulled to satisfy the requirements of the key players - how else would we end up with 100% cost recovery!

Now, clearly most TGA staff, including me, have nothing to say in terms of how it runs, being just cogs in a big amorphous entity, and most will never protest considering that not everyone is cut from the same stone as Dr Graham is (ha! I am positive few high ranking people would have finished him or a person like him with great pleasure), but...if what is being suggested will happen here - many individuals and organizations will react, including many important industry players. And some of them have friends at the very top!

OK, lets make it clear - AUS (closely followed by US) has probably the most advanced system of mid control ever developed (I know - I experienced the poor cousin from behind the iron curtain), but people do and will react when their lively hoods and well being are threatened.

You must realize, that AUS was the first country in the world which enacted a law to regulate the therapeutic entity of low risk CMs, which are subject to relatively strict regulation compared with a system based on the nutritional supplement approach!

It so happens that we just had a sixth anniversary of that change which was initially very much resisted by the local industry and some consumer groups - and now - the very players minus few who could not keep up are riding a wave of amazing returns.

As in any business, we are still dealing with few cowboys and "Mickey mouse" players who would do anything to make a buck. Many so-called professionals are in fact imposters who are happy to take advantage of the public given the opportunity!

Some are of questionable character (PAN fiasco) but others are just ignorant or Only today I had someone writing to me an official response and describing collagen as non essential fatty acid!!!! Collagen is a good example of how ridiculous some nutritional supplements or CMs are getting! In AUS, collagen has been used as an excipient in many therapeutic goods, but its use has recently been declining due to the obvious problems with BSE. But now we have companies trying to market collagen as an active ingredient - as a source of protein! Now - the BSE safety issue aside - what the hell has happened to adequate human nutrition - unlike some Vits, collagen can be plentiful in human diet if one chooses to eat certain foods!!! Yet - few smart players are happy to charge buckets of money for few grams/day! I guess - stupidity rules, particularly when one is vegetarian although most would refuse to take animal-based product. Well - expect vegetable-sourced collagen soon!!!

I could go on for much longer, but let me finish on that note! I do tend to go with the opinion that the regulation of CMs in AUS will not be very much affected by CODEX, but the effect in other countries may be very different, except for Canada which appears to be following the AUS model. I am happy to wait and see.

The EU has most certainly been behaving very oddly in that area and that is my main worry!!!

It is possible that the truth is somewhere in-between, at least that was the

case 20-50 years ago when one listened to the radio Free-Europe (US propaganda) after the Polish radio (soviet propaganda). Aaaaah - good old times - radio Tirana was a real beauty!!!
But times have changed - amazingly now - I would be more inclined to believe radio Moscow than radio Washington! Go figure!!!

B

At 12:22 11/05/05 -0400, Chris Gupta wrote:

What a bunch of claptrap TGA and HC are in bed and totally corrupted and have become lobbyists and the apologists for the industry their views as usual are self serving...

See:

Health Canada Bull on Codex:

http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/2005/03/10/health_canada_bull_on_codex.htm

Alternative Medicine Unwittingly Being Used In The Battle To Restrict Access To Nutrients :

http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/2005/01/27/alternative_medicine_unwittingly_being_used_in_the_battle_to_restrict_access_to_nutrients.htm

Chris

At 04:38 AM 11/05/2005, ahoa@homemail.com.au wrote:

Believe it or not?

<http://www.atms.com.au/news/Codex.pdf>

http://www.tga.gov.au/cm/fs_codex.htm

Bogdan