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Changes to the anti-doping code in sport explained

With the upcoming Olympic Games there is increased interest in the World Anti-Doping Code. Recent changes to the Code are examined and explained by Professor Peter Fricker, Assistant Director of the Australian Institute of Sport, in the latest edition of *Australian Prescriber*.

In January, the World Anti-Doping Agency assumed responsibility of doping control from the International Olympic Committee. Soon after the takeover, the Agency revised and reformed the List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods.

In short, the list includes all substances that have potential to enhance sport performance, have a potential risk to health or are in violation of the spirit of sport.

In his article, Professor Fricker examines the details of the World Anti-Doping Code and the List of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods. Changes include the removal of caffeine and pseudoephedrine, and the inclusion of a detailed list of various beta-agonists, peptide hormones, anabolic agents, masking agents and glucocorticosteroids.

Practicalities of drug testing in athletes are also to be visited at the upcoming 8th World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (CPT). Professor Danny Stiel, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, will present the history of drug taking in sport and the role of the Australian Sports Drug Agency and the Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory.

The 8th World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology is being held in Brisbane at the Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre from the 1 to 6 August 2004 following the National Medicines Symposium 2004.

For the complete article visit the *Australian Prescriber* web site www.australianprescriber.com

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For more information on the 8th World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology see: <http://www.cpt2004.com/welcome.htm>. For more information about National Medicines Symposium 2004 see: www.icms.com.au/nms2004.

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