attached to the patient.

#### Conclusion

PWDP is the most difficult and stressful clinical problem facing emergency physicians today. Simpler, more effective admitting strategies for PWDP victims will help patients and physicians and prevent costly repeat ED visits by patients who should have been admitted the first time.

#### References

1. Giveup I, Itsall NYD. Ten symptoms

that defy diagnosis. Tasmanian Journal of Public Health 1994;6:913-8.

- 2. The World Health Organization Panel on Obscure Illnesses. PWDP syndrome: scourge of the emergency department. Nature 1998;325:156-67.
- Dumped ON, Stumped IM, Baffled UR. PWDP: the silent epidemic. Can J Dermatol Conundr 1998;217:345-51.
- 4. Levy S, Schmilkstein MR, Brown P. Aminophylline-induced dysrhythmias increase admission success rates in patients with nonspecific dizziness. Ann Int Med 1994;134:432-9.
- Narc P, Schnark H, Park B. High-dose phenobarbital vs. lorazepam to facilitate successful hospitalization of patients without definable illness: a randomized clinical trial. Lancet 1992;167:1032-6.
- Whiner M. Syrup of ipecac and intractable vomiting: a cost-effective strategy for the admission of difficult patients. N Engl J Med 1989;322: 987-94.

Correspondence to: ginnes@interchange.ubc.ca

# **Service Information**

#### Subscription and sales

*CJEM* is supplied to CAEP's paid-up members as a perquisite of membership; others may subscribe yearly. Rates for 2000: Canada \$50, United States and elsewhere US\$50. Contact the CAEP office at 800 463-1158. Single copies of current year issues \$15; back issues \$15 (subject to availability). Canadian orders are subject to 7% GST / 15% HST (NS, NB, NF), as applicable. Payment should be made to the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) in funds specified drawn on a Canadian or US bank, respectively. VISA and MasterCard are also accepted.

### **Change of address**

We require 6-8 weeks' notice to ensure uninterrupted service. Please send your current mailing label, new address and the effective date of change to: CJEM@caep.ca or fax to 613 523-0190.

### Reprints

Bulk reprints of *CJEM* articles are available in minimum quantities of 50. For information on orders, please contact the reprint coordinator, Janis Murrey, tel 800 663-7336 or 613 731-8610 x2110, fax 613 565-2382, murrej@cma.ca.

### **Electronic availability**

CJEM is available online on the Internet (www.caep.ca).

#### Permissions

Copyright for all material is held by *CJEM* or its licencees. Unless otherwise indicated you may, without permission, for your noncommercial use, reproduce up to 10 copies of any specific item or portion thereof published in *CJEM*, provided that credit is given to the original source. You must have prior written permission for any reproduction, storage in a retrieval system or transmission, in any form or by any means. In the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, please contact *CJEM* editorial office (c/o Dr. Grant Innes, Department of Emergency Medicine, St. Paul's Hospital, 1081 Burrard St., Vancouver BC V6Z 1Y6; tel 604 806-9050, fax 604 806-9057, ginnes@interchange.ubc.ca).

## **Classified ads**

Contact Beverley Kirkpatrick, Manager, Journal Advertising, *CJEM*, 1867 Alta Vista Dr., Ottawa ON K1G 3Y6 (by courier: Ste. 500, 150 Isabella St., Ottawa ON K1S 1V7); tel 800 663-7336 or 613 731-8610 x2127, fax 613 565-7488, advertising@cma.ca. Please see the Classified Advertising section of the Journal for information on rates.