MAY 21, 2000
NOTICE TO HOSPITALS & PHYSICIANS

The Bruce Grey Owen Sound Health Unit is advising residents in the town of Walkerton to boil their drinking water or use bottle water until further notice. The water should be boiled for 5 minutes prior to consumption. This recommendation is being made due to a significant increase in cases of diarrhea in this community over the past several days.

The agent suspected is E.coli 0157:H7. In patients exhibiting bloody diarrhea keep a high index of suspicion for this organism and collect stool specimens.

Be aware that 10% of all people with E coli 0157:H7 infections go on to develop Haemolytic Urimic Syndrome (HUS).

Those at greatest risk are children, the elderly and immuno compromised.
Dr. M. S. McQuigge

Medical Officer of Health

Bruce Grey Owen Sound Health Unit