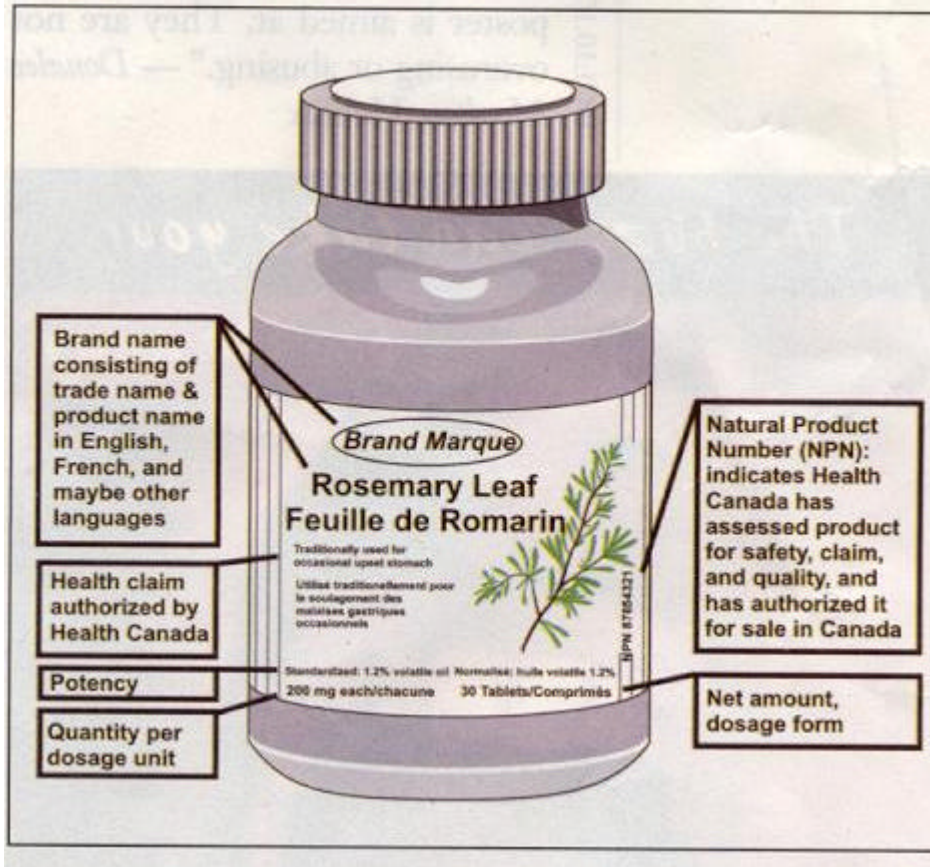




May 2004

### "Pearls" from the Palliative Care Team

## Natural Health Products: new labels, new credibility?



Regulations came into effect Jan 1, 2004 to cover the sale of 50,000 natural health products under Health Canada's Natural Health Products Directorate. This directorate will require manufacturers to obtain product licences for all their remedies within 5 years for existing products, and immediately for new ones. The Directorate will also be publishing a compendium.

There is controversy; some feel that the bar has not been raised high enough. These products do not have to meet Food and Drug Regulations. Instead, these natural products can have labelling indicating whether the therapeutic health claims are "scientific" or "traditional". For example, garlic might be labelled "traditionally used for treating colds and flu" indicating to the consumer that this is based on traditional evidence and not on new scientific studies.