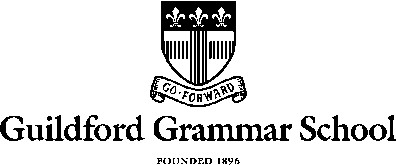
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#### **HUMAN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES STAGE 2**

## **STEM CELL TOURISM**

## **EXTENDED RESPONSE 6**

The potential of stem cell therapy offers hope to many people with chronic or terminal diseases that are incurable with current medical technology. In countries such as Australia and the UK stem cell therapy is heavily regulated by the government, but in other countries there is no such regulation. This has led to a phenomenon called ‘Stem Cell Tourism’. This occurs when people desperate for a cure to their particular illness travel to another country to receive stem cell therapies that are largely unscientifically tested.

Your task is to produce an A4 pamphlet that clearly explains the limitations and risks of stem cell therapies with the specific aim of discouraging stem cell tourism. The text of the pamphlet should be in simple, plain English that is easily understandable to anyone. It should include the following key points:

* What are stem cells?
* What is stem cell therapy?
* What diseases can currently be cured by stem cell therapy?
* What risks are associated with stem cell therapy?
* Why is it important to only use scientifically tested and independent verified treatments?

*Continued over page*

Below are four websites produced by suspect stem cell clinics. The first two are based in the Dominican Republic, the third in India and the fourth in Mexico. It is most likely that all four offer treatments that have not been validated by independent scientific testing.

<http://www.regenobody.com/>

<http://www.cancunstemcellclinic.com/aboutus.cfm>

[http://chaitanyastemcell.com/](http://chaitanyastemcell.com/?gclid=CImdjbKpzaQCFQk2bwodNkj_EA)

<http://www.medra.com/>

Your pamphlet should also include a list of warning signs for people to look for when investigating the websites for stem cell clinics. These might include things such as relying heavily on patient testimonials, claiming to be able to cure multiple diseases and underplaying the risks of the treatment.

A reliable starting point for information on stem cells would be the following site:

<http://www.closerlookatstemcells.org/>

Typing ‘stem cell tourism’ into Google will also provide many articles that warn of the dangers associated with this practice.

Marking key:

Presentation / Effort 5

Addressing Key points 10

List of warning signs on websites 5

#### Total 20 marks