

## COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 13469

In October 1970, FDA distributed a Current Drug Information Bulletin to physicians and other health professionals confirming its agreement with the stated conclusions of the UGDP study. The agency recommended that use of sulfonylurea agents be limited to those patients with symptomatic adult-onset, nonketotic diabetes who cannot be adequately controlled by diet or weight loss alone and in whom the addition of insulin is impractical or unacceptable.

The first report of the UGDP study was published in November 1970 as a supplement to Diabetes, the journal of the American Diabetes Association (ref. 1). An accompanying editorial statement representing the view of the American Diabetes Association (ref. 2) made the following therapeutic recommendations:

The clearest indication for oral agents is diabetes of mild or moderate severity in a patient who proves to be poorly controlled with diet and who is unable or unwilling to take insulin. In adult-onset diabetes with hyperglycemia and glycosuria, symptomatic or not, and in the absence of ketosis, a trial with an appropriate diet should come first. If this does not establish satisfactory control, insulin is to be preferred to other therapeutic agents because it is more uniformly effective in controlling hyperglycemia and the UGDP study indicates that it may be safer.