

13648 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

There appear to be 3 approaches to this problem. These include an immediate restriction of their use through firm warning and labelling via the F.D.A., a long term educational process, and the development of more rigid drug testing requirements.

Recommendations:

I. Immediate warning to all physicians of the hazards by a bulletin from the F.D.A. stating the following:

- A. A suitably calculated isocaloric diet serves as the cornerstone for the treatment of maturity onset diabetes.
- B. A suitable trial of dietary management for several weeks should be instituted first.
- C. If adequate levels of blood sugar cannot be obtained with this regimen, even in the absence of symptoms associated with diabetes, insulin therapy should be instituted.
- D. The oral hypoglycemic agents are a potential hazard to health and should be used, after the patient has been advised of this fact, with caution only under the following circumstances:
 - (1) If the patient is handicapped by serious visual loss or other physically incapacitating disorders.
 - (2) If the patient refuses to use insulin.

The drug companies should be required to include the above facts on the package inserts of medication, despite the fact that physicians infrequently read them. Some method of identifying these medications as hazardous must be developed for patient protection.