

## 14998 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

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| <u>Time</u>   | <u>Total Patients</u> | <u>Amount Dispensed</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 0 - 21 days   | 34                    | 1,660 d.u.              |
| 22 - 90 days  | 101                   | 19,734 d.u.             |
| 91 - 180 days | 160                   | 84,315 d.u.             |
| 180 - days    | 316                   | 279,991 d.u.            |
|               | TOTAL: 756            | TOTAL: 385,700 d.u.     |

The procedure used to select the patient cards from which the above information was gathered was to take, when possible, every tenth card from the files. This procedure was followed with the exception that some patient cards pertained to other than obesity medical problems in which another card was selected. In addition, it was not possible to read some cards and one physician did not have any patient cards and only had a drug log book showing the patient's name, date, type, and amount of drug dispensed.

These six physicians have approximately 6,600 active patients whom they treat for obesity. Since January 1, 1976, they have purchased 1,104,875 dosage units of various strengths of amphetamines.

Each physician inspected as mentioned above was asked to comment on FDA's rule that amphetamines should be used only for short-term treatment of obesity. Two physicians stated that they did not accept FDA's guidelines and that they considered amphetamines effective in the treatment of obesity. Three physicians stated they had never heard about FDA's guidelines, and another stated that amphetamines, when used properly, have a value as a "pep" pill and can be used in place of Ritalin. He also felt that 21 days was not long enough to allow for a "maintenance" period. He stated