

Dr. McCARRON. Well, if you look at this particular one, you will find that there are many judgments in the write up that we include in our formulary. These are judgments made by the therapeutic committee.

For example, where it says "Use of this drug," we start right out by saying "The usefulness of this drug is limited by its toxicity." Then we describe the toxicity in detail, and we try to discourage the use of this drug. We ask them only to use it for short periods of time, and it tells them in what situations this might be detrimental.

Then we include in our formulary the scientific references so that they can look it up and get more detailed information if they are interested. But here is a concise summary.

Senator NELSON. I notice that at the top on the right, you have the generic name. Then you list brand name. In your formulary, do you list all of the brand names? Is there only one brand name for this?

Dr. McCARRON. Yes, there is just one here that is commonly used. I am not sure if there is another one, but we would use all the common ones.

Senator NELSON. So if you had tetracycline, for example, you would list all of the brand names, also.

Dr. McCARRON. Yes; that has eight or nine.

Senator NELSON. Thank you.

Dr. McCARRON (reading).

B. Use of the drug formulary to protect the patient against errors in drug administration

Although most of the necessary prescribing information is available in the package insert which accompanies each drug, these are easily misplaced on a busy ward and are not available to the physicians in the outpatient clinic. The hospital drug formulary provides ready access to concise, pertinent information. It provides information regarding drug storage, mixing, and incompatibilities, as well as a cross-index of drug names, usual therapeutic range, maximum dose, and other information vitally needed to decrease errors and provide maximum protection for the patient.

Certain dangerous and rarely used drugs are available only to physicians who have experience in treating the condition for which the drug is used. For example, all chemotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of cancer are only released to members of the hermatology department and the cancer chemotherapy team. This restriction is clearly noted in the drug formulary.

C. Use of the formulary system by the pharmacy for inventory control in relation to cost saving and efficiency of operation

The annual drug budget at the Los Angeles County General Hospital is approximately \$2 million. This is based on maintaining an inventory of about 550 drugs. If we were not operating on a formulary system, the inventory would be multiplied many times on some items and the total inventory would probably be doubled.

For example, the 1967 edition of the "Physicians' Desk Reference" lists 108 different brands of antihistamines. The Los Angeles County General Hospital Drug Formulary lists eight. If we carried each brand according to the physician's preference, we would be unable to accurately gage consumption and would lose our advantage in competitive bidding.