

Among these were 87 products which were dispensed under their brand names, but for which chemical equivalents were available--often but not always at lower cost--and could have been prescribed under generic names. They accounted for about 29 percent of the total number of prescriptions, 27 percent of the total acquisition cost to retailers, and 27 percent of the retail cost to patients.

Also included were 30 drugs which were dispensed under their generic names. They accounted for about 10 percent of the number of prescriptions, 10 percent of the total acquisition cost, and 5 percent of the total retail cost.

Average Prescription Cost. For all 409 MDL drugs, the average cost per prescription was \$3.91. For the 379 drugs dispensed under brand name, it was \$4.11. For the 30 drugs dispensed under generic name, it was \$2.02.

Most Widely Used Drugs. The 10 most frequently used products--headed by an oral antidiabetic agent, and including two tranquilizers, two diuretics, an analgesic, an anti-arthritic agent, a cardiac drug, and two sedatives--accounted for 20 percent of the total number of MDL prescriptions, 21.6 percent of the total acquisition cost to