

whereby patients may obtain information on local prescription prices, especially for long-term maintenance drugs.

Prescription Label Information

It is frequently necessary for a physician to determine the nature and amount of a prescription drug which a patient has been taking. In some instances--as in the case of a suspected adverse drug reaction, or accidental or deliberate overdose--the rapid identification of a drug may be a matter of life and death.

As a step in improving the quality of health care, the Task Force recommends that the Congress should enact legislation requiring that the containers of all dispensed prescription drugs be labeled with the identity, strength and quantity of the product, except where this is waived upon specific orders of the prescribers.

To promote efficiency and minimize errors, the Task Force recommends that encouragement should be given to the wider use of prepackage dispensing, in which manufacturers prepare and pharmacists dispense tablets and capsules in precounted form, in sealed, prelabeled containers, and in such numbers as conform to those most frequently prescribed by physicians.