

drug classification system to determine the feasibility of its eventual use in all public and private drug programs.

We commend those whose efforts made possible the development of the system.

Drug Coding

In the different aspects of drug manufacturing, distribution, sales, use, utilization review, accounting, cost analysis, and other marketing or administrative procedures, many different kinds of information may be needed. Basic to all of them, however, is information which will identify (a) the manufacturer, (b) the product, dosage form and strength, and (c) the package size, and which also is in a form which can be transmitted, stored and retrieved through electronic data processing systems.

Logically, the identification number would be assigned for all drugs on the market, and for any new drug at the time the New Drug Application is approved.

The number should be part of the required labeling, and ideally could be used to identify each individual tablet or capsule by printing techniques which are already being used by some drug manufacturers.