

In addition, the number should be utilized in the coding for a proposed international adverse drug reaction reporting system which is now under consideration.

As a result of Task Force studies, it appears that an appropriate code can be developed by the use of a nine-character identification system utilizing both letters and numbers. The first three numbers would identify the labeler of the product (in most cases the labeler would also be the manufacturer), the next four would identify the drug, dosage form and strength, and the last two would identify the package size.

It is believed that such an identifying system would be able to accomodate a virtually unlimited number of different drug products.

The Task Force recommends that--

- (a) An appropriate identifying code number should be made part of all drug labels, package inserts, catalogs and advertising;
- (b) An appropriate coding system should be developed and tested by government and industry for this purpose;