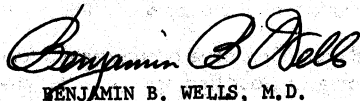


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explained to him and he will be given a choice of alternative available medication. In those infrequent instances where physicians will not agree to an alternative medication, the drug product, if available, will have to be obtained by the patient from a private pharmacy.

5. It is not the intention of Central Office to practice medicine or dictate from Washington the prescribing of drugs for individual patients. We are, however, deeply concerned about the continued use of drug products which, after a review by eminent medical specialists composing the Review Panels of NAS/NRC, have been determined by the FDA to lack substantial evidence of effectiveness or have an unfavorable benefit to risk ratio. Pharmacists will keep Supply Service closely apprised of any action taken by local committees that would affect drug demands.



BENJAMIN B. WELLS, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Director

Enclosure

Distribution: COB: (10) only plus (119) 75
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