

Now, we do have the exception that we discussed, a possible use of a possibly effective where there is nothing else that can be found to satisfy the need at that time. We have already discussed that.

Senator NELSON. And the same is true of the "probably effective" drugs; is that correct?

General HAYES. Beg pardon?

Senator NELSON. And the same rule applies to the "probably effective" drugs?

General HAYES. We didn't delineate it that clearly for that because the probably effective group is sort of in limbo a little bit.

Senator NELSON. This is a continuation of the question I raised about the various tetracycline modifications that we were talking about a little while ago. Will it be or is it your policy at this time to review the purchase of so-called or what you might call "me-too" drugs, that is, drugs that perform the same function as another drug that is well established and is demonstrated to be just as effective? Will it be your policy to review these "me-too" drugs that cost more and perform the same function and eliminate them from your purchasing policy?

General HAYES. Well, as a result of the continuing actions resulting from these hearings, from the NAS-NRC studies, we talked this over with the Defense Medical Materiel Board and on January 25 further implementation of the memorandum I just read. The Chairman of the Board sent out a subject "Committee Review of Special Interest Items." It changed the review approach that I mentioned earlier of all line items, line by line in the standard pattern, to looking at certain areas of special interest.

Thirty areas have been identified at the present time. I will read just a little bit of this memorandum to give an idea of how we are going at it.

This is paragraph 3 of the memorandum:

An abbreviated item review report is given below as an example of Committee action. Number one is Declomycin, two is Aureomycin, three is Terramycin. In the discussion, medical authorities state that tetracyclines do not differ in any essential characteristics and are essentially identical in terms of antibacterial activity. The difference in pharmacologic activity due to molecular modifications are relatively minor in importance. Differences in costs are significant.

Recommendation. That items one, two, and three above be reclassified as limited standard with eventual deletion from the Federal Supply Catalog, retain generic tetracycline hydrochloride as a standard item.

Now, we have another enclosure to this which lists by what you might call class actions a similar approach to 30 different areas. I will list a few of them or all of them at your desire. Anti-infective drugs, antihistamines, coronary vasodilators, vasodilators, sedatives, hypnotics, gastrointestinal antispasmodics, antacids, skeletal muscle relaxants, antiemetics and analgesics.

In each of those major headings are varying numbers of specific items by line item.

Senator NELSON. Would you supply the committee with a copy?

General HAYES. We will be glad to.

(The information above-referred to, follows:)