

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF STANDARD STOCK-LISTED ANTIHISTAMINES (CONT'D.)

DISCUSSION:

1. Medical authorities state the indications for antihistamines are (1) to control the manifestations of allergy which may be attributed to histamine, and (2) to control nausea and motion sickness. Carefully controlled studies show that antihistamines neither shorten the duration nor reduce the severity of the common cold. It is stated that most physicians, expert in allergic diseases, confine their prescribing to a few drugs well established as to their effectiveness in allergy and motion sickness. A few combinations with decongestants would be convenient in allergic syndromes. The great bulk of antihistamines on the market, some of them highly priced, offer no detectable advantage over the antihistamines listed in the USP.

2. The Federal Supply Catalog lists a wide range of basic USP antihistamines plus a large number of antihistamine combinations, some of which appear to be inordinately expensive.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That FSNs 6505-014-1028 CHLORPHENIRAMINE MALEATE, ISOPROPAMIDE IODIDE, AND PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE CAPSULES (ORNADE), 6505-935-9818 CHLORPHENIRAMINE MALEATE, CARAMIPHEN EDISYLATE, ISOPROPAMIDE IODIDE, AND PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE CAPSULES (TUSS-ORNADE), and 6505-926-9019 DEXBROMPHENIRAMINE MALEATE AND PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SULFATE TABLETS (DISOPHROL CHRONOTABS) be type classified to "LIMITED STANDARD" with eventual deletion from the Federal Supply Catalog.