

8216 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF STANDARD STOCK-LISTED SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS

BACKGROUND:

1. ITEM IDENT: 6505-890-1562 ORPHENADRINE CITRATE TABLETS, 100mg
UNIT OF ISSUE/PRICE: 50s BT/\$5.10 COST PER TABLET: \$0.102
ANNUAL DEMAND DATA: ARMY - 3,505; NAVY - 4,216; AIR FORCE - 6,095
TRADE MARK NAME: "NORFLEX"

DISCUSSION:

1. The skeletal muscle relaxants are basically sedatives, several being related to Meprobamate. Medical authorities doubt whether or not any of these agents offer any advantage over Meprobamate. ORPHENADRINE is a drug similar to agents used for treating rigidity and tremors of Parkinson's Disease. Medical authorities question the suitability of ORPHENADRINE for its customary usage, i.e., muscle pain and spasm such as back pain or stiff neck.

2. There is questionable effectiveness in addition to high cost in relation to other agents in this therapeutic group.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That FSN 6505-890-1562 ORPHENADRINE CITRATE TABLETS, 100mg (NORFLEX) be type classified to "LIMITED STANDARD" with eventual deletion from the Federal Supply Catalog.