

Department of Medicine and Surgery. The deliberations of this panel to date have established the fact that the amount of bio-availability data currently available is quite meager, that there are few acceptable study protocols and that the cost of such studies will be substantial.

Policy on Selection of Drugs for Central Procurement

In addition to our efforts to assure rational drug prescription, we are reviewing our drug purchasing practices. This Subcommittee has asked for information with specific reference to our policy on selecting drugs for central purchasing. The determination of which drugs will be procured is not a procurement decision, but rather it is a professional decision. The purchasing agent should not determine which drugs will be used by the physician. It is the proper function of the purchasing agent to buy the drugs prescribed by physicians as economically and efficiently as possible. It is his further responsibility to make available to the professional staff information on prices, relative costs of various drugs and any other product information which may be useful in the selection of drugs. The determination of the method by which drugs will be supplied, including the decision on central purchasing, is based on analysis of the amounts and frequency of use of the drug.

These determinations begin at the station Pharmacy Service where a study is made of prescriptions received, and a decision is reached either to order only a sufficient amount for the immediate prescription or to stock a quantity in the pharmacy to fill continuing prescriptions that can be anticipated. At this point, the pharmacist contacts the prescribing physician if the drug is not one