

exchange of information. To this end, discussions are currently going on in the Intra-Governmental Professional Advisory Council for Drugs and Devices. All agencies engaged in drug manufacturing plant inspections and product testing are members of this group.

Executive Committee on Therapeutic Agents

In conclusion, I would like to refer once more to our Executive Committee on Therapeutic Agents. This is the policy-making body in our agency in all matters having to do with drug usage. We have restructured this body and restated its mission through Chief Medical Director's Memorandum 10-72-7, dated March 14, 1972.

Its functions are to:

1. Develop, recommend and disseminate policy and information on safe, effective and rational use of drugs in VA.
2. Conduct epidemiological studies on drug utilization, drug usage and utilization patterns for field station and Central Office use.
3. Review and act on requests from VA hospitals and clinics for use of drugs not available in interstate commerce and for which an FDA New Drug Application has not been effected (investigational drugs), for clinical treatment in a specific patient.
4. Evaluate reports of adverse drug reactions and drug interactions prior to forwarding them to FDA.
5. Review significant actions of Therapeutic Agents and Pharmacy Reviews committees to determine appropriateness of policies on drug usage and to identify and recommend needed changes.
6. Review and act on Quality Improvement Reports submitted by VA hospitals and clinics which indicate dissatisfaction with the quality