

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 8677

BNDD Schedule I items and other investigational drug usage—Dr. Bailar. (3) Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Controlled Drug Procedures—Update Circular 10-70-90—Dr. Francke. (4) Protocol for dispensing Methadone and other drug abuse items—Dr. Kaim—Dr. Francke. (5) New Business.

June 27, 1972—10:00-11:00 a.m. (Room 937): (1) Report of June 13, 1972 Meeting—Dr. Lee. (2) Report of Subcommittee on Regionalization—Mr. Boehm. (3) Report of Subcommittee on a National Drug Index (Formulary Service)—Dr. Francke. (4) New Business.

SUBCOMMITTEES

April 10, 1972: (1) Efficacy of Coronary Vasodilators With Policy for Continued Usage—Dr. Rosenberg.

April 20, 1972: (2) Ambulatory Care (Fee-Basis) Program—Dr. Haber, Dr. Klein, Dr. Stage, Miss Quandt and Mr. Murphree.

May 17, 1972: (3) Bureau of Biologics Standards—Dr. Williams and Staff—Dr. Matthews. Report on PPD—Tuberculin and Other Recent Developments.

May 17, 1972: (4) Field Station Committees on Therapeutic Agents and Pharmacy Reviews Surveillance—Mr. Harding.

June 13, 1972: (5) Use of Investigational Drugs, BNDD Schedule I Items, etc.—Dr. Pittman, Dr. Matthews and Dr. Bailar.

June 13, 1972: (6) Drug Dependence Service—Dr. Kaim and Dr. Francke.

June 27, 1972: (7) Regionalization As It Effects Distribution Of Drugs—Mr. Boehm and RMD. (8) National Drug Index—Formulary Service—Dr. Francke, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Harding. (9) Automation of Pharmacy Service—Mr. Linder and Mr. Shaughnessy. (10) Adverse Drug Reports—Mr. Harding, Dr. Christianson, Dr. Green.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY,
Washington, D.C., May 4, 1972.

Circular No. 10-72-92.

Subject: Policy for prescribing drugs classified no higher than "possibly effective."
To: Directors of hospitals, domiciliary, outpatient clinics and regional offices with outpatient clinics.

1. It is the policy of the VA that funds will not be expended for purchasing drugs classified by the Food and Drug Administration as "ineffective" or "possibly effective" with the following exceptions: (a) VA funds may be expended to purchase "ineffective" and "possibly effective" drug products for investigational use in veteran patients. (b) VA funds may be used to purchase "possibly effective" drug products when no appropriate alternate means of drug therapy is available.

2. We want to emphasize our desire to make every effort to treat all VA patients with the most effective therapeutic agents at the most favorable prices available.

BENJAMIN B. WELLS, M.D.,
Deputy Chief Medical Director.

Circular expires May 3, 1973.

U.S. GOVERNMENT,
April 19, 1972.

Memorandum, VA marketing center.

To: Chief, drugs and chemicals (134L).

Through: Director, supply service (134).

From: Chairman, executive committee on therapeutic agents (11).

Subject: Depot stocking of possibly effective drug items.

1. The Executive Committee on Therapeutic Agents has prepared the following suggested policy statement. "VA funds may be used to purchase 'possibly effective' drug products when no appropriate alternate means of drug therapy is available."

2. An effort is being made to encourage all physicians, both Staff and Fee-Basis, to prescribe the "most effective" drug product available to treat veteran patients.

3. In view of the above statements, Marketing Center has been alerted to hold down procurement of any of the drug products classified as "possibly effective". This does not mean to discontinue procurement of the item completely.