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IMPORTANT PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
FROM CHARLES C. EDWARDS, M.D.,
COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS

FDA
DRUG BULLETIN
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FDA DRUG BULLETIN

News and Reports of Interest to Practicing Physicians and Allied Health Professionals, Issued by the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Comments are invited. All correspondence should be addressed to the Assistant to the Director for Medical Communications, Bureau of Drugs, BD-40, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852

FDA TO EVALUATE O-T-C DRUGS

The Food and Drug Administration has embarked upon a major scientific and regulatory program designed to assure that all over-the-counter drugs are safe, effective, and accurately labeled for the relief of minor illnesses and discomfort.

Responsibility for evaluating the over-the-counter drug products on a class-by-class basis will rest with expert panels, to be appointed by FDA. Each panel will consist of physicians with extensive knowledge of the drugs involved. A National Drug Advisory Board, chaired by Food and Drug Commissioner Charles C. Edwards, M.D., will supervise the evaluation.

The basic scientific undertaking will take two to three years to complete. Meanwhile, FDA is continuing implementation of the National Academy of Sciences review of efficacy of prescription drugs (see Drug Bulletin, July 1971). The aim of both programs is to assure physicians and the public of the safety, efficacy and accurate labeling of all marketed drugs.