

organizations the DOD policy on such drugs, which became effective January 21, 1971. This policy provides that for "ineffective" items subsequently withdrawn from the market, remaining stocks are to be destroyed or other appropriate action taken to remove them from the inventory. For items categorized "ineffective" but awaiting final determination by FDA, further use of remaining stocks is suspended until the final status is announced. Pharmacy and Therapeutic Agents Committees are required to question all prescriptions for "possibly effective" items, but local procurement of such items may be made if no alternative means of therapy is available.

No "ineffective" drugs have been purchased by DPSC for central stocks since the pertinent pronouncements in the Federal Register, but we are aware of a Federal Supply Schedule purchase of one item, Darvon (32 milligram), for initial treatment of seriously underweight geriatric patients. Also, 24 procurements valued at \$1.5 million have been made of "possibly effective" drug items by DPSC for central stock since the FDA pronouncements. Twenty of these buys, valued at over \$1.4 million, were made before the DOD policy prohibiting further procurements of "possibly effective" drugs was issued in January 1971.

Following this Subcommittee's hearings in 1970, DOD established a committee to conduct an item by item review of drugs, chemicals, and biologicals in the Federal Supply Catalog to identify high cost, possibly ineffective, or duplicate items, and to initiate action to minimize the use of high cost drugs where lower price equivalents are available.