

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 8867

Usage within each class by eligibility categories generally followed expected patterns; i.e., children used most of the anthelmintics (94%) and the disabled and aged used all (100%) of the anticoagulants.

Analgesics were the first or second most frequently used class of drugs by each group of adult recipients (Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled). Only among the children did analgesics fall to third place, being replaced by antibacterials and the class that included over-the-counter drug products.

Among the disabled and the aged, the second leading class of drugs was the antihypertensive agents. This is undoubtedly due to the relatively high prevalence of hypertension among these groups.

Only for the children (Aid to Dependent Children) did the antibacterials represent the leading class; antibacterials ranked third, however, for the blind and disabled, but ranked only sixth for the aged.

TABLE II.—10 MOST FREQUENTLY PRESCRIBED DRUG CLASSIFICATIONS, NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM CATEGORY, JULY 1, 1970-FEB. 19, 1971

Drug classification	Prescriptions	Expenditures
Old age assistance:		
Analgesics.....	83,393	\$338,705.35
Antihypertensive agents.....	80,854	353,875.89
All noncoded legend and all coded injectables ¹	79,103	322,491.60
Gastrointestinal agents.....	64,232	199,662.93
Diuretics.....	56,572	188,908.75
Antibacterials.....	54,292	254,807.21
Cardiac agents.....	43,497	99,112.41
Sedative-hypnotics.....	42,600	92,959.43
Peripheral vasodilators.....	36,602	184,268.57
Hypoglycemics.....	35,642	168,642.85
Aid to the blind:		
All noncoded legend and all coded injectables ¹	2,164	8,408.24
Analgesics.....	1,767	6,030.77
Antibacterials.....	1,519	7,530.38
Gastrointestinal agents.....	1,360	4,086.12
Antihypertensive agents.....	1,223	4,626.60
Diuretics.....	1,118	4,241.00
Hypoglycemic agents.....	1,012	4,475.52
Antianxiety agents.....	924	4,810.78
Sedatives-Hypnotics.....	906	1,998.18
Cardiac agents.....	412	955.59
Aid to permanently and totally disabled:		
Analgesics.....	34,467	134,114.67
Antihypertensive agents.....	25,569	117,943.18
Antibacterials.....	22,403	104,746.65
Gastrointestinal agents.....	20,064	63,038.71
Sedative-Hypnotics.....	17,469	37,945.77
Antianxiety agents.....	16,540	85,963.09
Diuretics.....	16,463	56,516.71
Hypoglycemic agents.....	16,093	77,367.72
Antipsychotic agents.....	12,653	81,448.40
Cardiac agents.....	11,247	26,031.36
Aid to dependent children:		
Antibacterials.....	35,566	141,519.95
All noncoded legend and all coded injectables ¹	14,437	49,489.86
Analgesics.....	6,416	14,450.25
Antihistaminics.....	5,178	12,872.50
Antitussives.....	4,476	10,141.35
Topicals.....	4,285	11,842.40
Antiemetics.....	4,185	10,714.09
Gastrointestinal agents.....	3,654	9,047.27
Anthelmintics.....	2,547	6,590.65
Nasal decongestants.....	1,925	4,864.41

¹ This group contains drugs from all therapeutic classes, and so has no comparative relationship to other classes in this table.

The top ranking drug by amount spent was Indocin 25mg Capsules. This drug ranked third in number of prescriptions. The top ranking drug by number of prescriptions was Darvon Compound-65 Capsules. Darvon Compound-65 Capsules ranked second in amount spent.

Table III shows the ranking of the top 50 drugs by amount and also shows the ranking of these 50 drugs by number of prescriptions.

The 50 drugs listed in Table III accounted for 38.7% of all drug payments from July 1, 1970, through February 19, 1971. This amounted to \$1,736,804.59.