

8868 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

It is interesting to note that among the 10 leading drugs ranked by total amount paid, 5 drugs are specified as "not recommended" or as "irrational mixtures" by the "AMA Drug Evaluations.—1971." Also, one drug among the ten has been classified as "possibly ineffective" by the Food and Drug Administration. This indicates an overall negative relationship between popular usage of drugs and the evaluation of their efficiency and safety by the AMA Council on Drugs and the FDA. It is suggested that this represents a fertile area for professional education.

TABLE III.—RANK OF TOP 50 DRUGS BY AMOUNT PAID AND BY NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS, JULY 1, 1970 TO FEB. 19, 1971—Continued

Drug name	Rank	
	Amount paid	Rx
Indocin 25 mg. capsules.....	1	3
Darvon Compound-65 capsules.....	2	11
Pavabid capsules.....	3	7
Orinase tablets 500 mg.....	4	6
DBI-TD capsules.....	5	12
Valium 5 mg. tablets.....	6	9
Aldoril 25 tablets ¹	7	16
Salutensin tablets ¹	8	5
Antivert ^{1,2}	9	4
Ser-ap-es tablets ¹	10	10
Indocin 50 mg. capsules.....	11	34
Lasix 40 mg. tablets.....	12	8
Al and hydroxide gel. susp.....	13	2
Meprobamate 400 mg. tablets.....	14	11
Diabinese 250 mg. tablets.....	15	19
Librium 10 mg. capsules.....	16	27
Hydropres 50 tablets.....	17	18
Cyclospasmol 200 mg. capsules.....	18	39
Aldomet 250 mg. tablets.....	19	31
Hydropres, 25 tablets.....	20	20
Dyazid capsules.....	21	15
Mellaril 25 mg. tablets.....	22	45
Tetracycline 250 mg. capsules.....	23	13
Cerespan capsules ¹	24	58
Aldoril, 15 capsules ¹	25	41
Regroton tablets.....	26	23
Hydergine sublingual tablets 0.5 mg.....	27	49
Artidrin 6 mg. tablets.....	28	51
Diupres, 500 tablets.....	29	43
Diuril 500 mg. tablets.....	30	22
Darvon 65 mg. capsules.....	31	29
Peritrate SA 80 mg. tablets.....	32	56
Ampicillin capsules 250 mg.....	33	69
Triavil 2-25 tablets.....	34	89
NegGram 500 mg. tablets.....	35	103
Pnenobarbital 30 mg. tablets.....	36	14
Donnatal tablets ¹	37	21
Equagesic tablets ^{1,2}	38	57
Trinsicon capsules.....	39	53
Butazolidin alka capsules.....	40	47
Dilantin 100 mg. capsules.....	41	28
Macrodon 50 mg. capsules.....	42	65
Quinidine sulfate 200 mg. (caps or tabs).....	43	50
Iletin Insulin NPH 80u/cc 10cc.....	44	44
Mellaril 50 mg. tablets.....	45	95
Vasodilan 10 mg. tablets.....	46	71
Diupres, 250 tablets.....	47	42
HydroDiuril 50 mg. tablets.....	48	37
Theragran hematinic tablets.....	49	54
Tolinase 250 mg. tablets.....	50	97

¹ Drugs listed as "not recommended" or as "irrational mixtures" by AMA Drug Evaluations, 1971.

² Drugs listed as "possibly ineffective" by FDA as of N.v. 1, 1970.

The second part of this paper reviews overall use of drugs under the program between January 1, 1971, and May 31, 1971. In Table IV, actual number of eligibles using drugs is shown as "recipients". During this period, a little over 100,000 Medicaid eligibles obtained drugs under the program; this represents about 50% of the total eligibles. Among those receiving drugs, the average prescription per recipient as shown in Table IV reveal that white females had the highest use rate, followed by white males, non-white females and non-white males.