

PHARMACY NEWSLETTER



MARTIN ARMY HOSPITAL

FT. BENNING, GEORGIA

Volume XII

January 1972

Number 1

This newsletter is prepared by Pharmacy Service to disseminate information to the hospital staff on additions and deletions to the MAH-Formulary, current drug usage, drug legislation, adverse drug reactions, and drug interactions.

PROFILES OF DRUG UTILIZATION WITHIN MEDDAC ACTIVITIES

At a time when the total expenditures for health care have reached alarming proportions, it is essential that individual components be under continual study and evaluation. One of the elements that must be evaluated is the utilization of drugs not only as it pertains to their therapeutic value but also as to its impact on budget considerations.

It is the intent of this column to bring to the attention of the staff subjects that have a bearing on proper drug utilization. It is our expectation that a greater concern by all personnel develops as a result of disseminating this information. Our ultimate goal is better utilization of drugs and a reduction of funds presently channeled toward the procurement of drugs.

Contributions, suggestions, and constructive criticism are welcome and will be published in forthcoming issues of this newsletter.

From The Department of Clinics

The Department of Clinics is engaged in a program of reducing the number and amounts prescribed of drugs subject to abuse or addiction. Statistics generated out of this program reveals aspects of drug utilization which should be of interest to all personnel.

During the year ending in October 1971 a review of utilization of 10 commonly prescribed drugs disclosed the following:

Drug	Number of	Total \$
	Units	Value
Amytal	4,500	\$24.30
Seconal	41,300	\$209.06
Placidyl	9,800	\$270.48
Ritalin	17,800	\$338.06
Meprobamate	8,500	\$448.80
Phenobarbital	318,400	\$540.72
Chloral Hydrate	46,400	\$672.80
Fiorinal	287,000	\$2,631.79
Librium	419,000	\$12,057.30
Valium	727,000	\$28,203.00

It should be noted that the bulk of funds expended on these type of drugs is attributable to only three drugs:

FIORINAL, LIBRIUM, & VALIUM

These three drugs accounted for a total of 1,433,000 units at a cost of \$42,892.09

The significance of these figures can better be evaluated when comparison is made to the other drugs stocked and used in MEDDAC. A total of 1100 drug products are authorized for use in our activities. The cost per line on a monthly basis of these 1100 lines is \$59.00 while for each one of the aforementioned three drugs is \$1,194.00.

While no attempt was made to determine proper utilization of these drugs, physicians and dentists who have studied these figures have raised the following question:

How many of those patients started on Valium or Librium for its tranquilizing