

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 8895

THE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

The existence of a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center is provided for in Air Force Manual 168-4 and Medical Center Regulation 160-38. It is a committee of doctors from various medical specialties, the Chief of the Material Division and the Chairman, Pharmacy Department serving as Recorder. One of the committee's major responsibilities is the selection of drugs for the development of a Formulary of Accepted Drugs for use in Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center.

THE FORMULARY SYSTEM

The Formulary System is an accepted method whereby the medical staff of the hospital, working through the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, evaluates, appraises and selects from among the numerous medicinal agents available, those that are considered most useful in patient care, together with dosage forms in which they may be administered most effectively.

Under the Formulary System, each member of the medical staff agrees that in each instance in which he prescribes a drug by brand name he authorizes the hospital pharmacist to dispense, and the nurse to administer, the same drug under its generic name; irrespective of whether it is or is not the same brand referred to in the prescription or drug order.

THE FORMULARY OF ACCEPTED DRUGS

All drugs approved for use in Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center are listed in the Formulary of Accepted Drugs. The drugs are listed alphabetically by generic name. Trade names of single entity drugs are cross-indexed to the generic name. Brand names of combination drugs are cross-indexed to the generic name of the major therapeutic ingredient. For your convenience, a drug classification index has been included in the Formulary of Accepted Drugs as an Appendix.

The Formulary can be used as a convenient source of information on drugs stocked in the Pharmacy. Brand names, generic names, dosage forms and product strengths can be rapidly obtained by using the formulary.