



AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

"HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?" PAMPHLET

Placing medical supply costs in perspective is a continuing analysis of ways to reduce this trend. All data available must have a simple, convenient way to compare the costs of similar pharmaceuticals. Many times, one of several available pharmaceuticals may be used to treat a specific illness. In cases like this, cost can certainly be the deciding factor; therefore, why not choose the less expensive medication? The creation of a "How Much Does It Cost?" pamphlet will enable Air Force physicians to have a ready reference to compare similar pharmaceuticals and their respective prices.

HOW TO USE THE PAMPHLET: On several different groups of diseases, an alphabetical comparison of several items are listed for consideration, and additions and deletions may be made to this basic list of preparations to satisfy local requirements: Appetite control, antihistoids, anticholinergics, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antidiarrheals, antidiuretics, antihypertensives, antiparasitics, antipneumonia, antipruritics, antipsychotics, antituberculars, antitumor, and oral pediatric and dental.

Figure 1 illustrates a sample page from the pamphlet. Pharmacy and medical supply must work together to find out the specific items that will be on the each list. After the items are selected, the cost per day and cost per tablet or capsule can be computed.

COST PER DAY: The cost per day may be computed by referring to the Physician's Desk Reference index under "dosage and use." The "dosage and use" information will tell the average daily dosage for the drug being studied. This information is entered on the items on the list; however, the quantity prescribed per day can be entered differently. For example, if a patient is prescribed 100 mg of a drug, the quantity prescribed per day would be 100 mg.

questioned the ability of administration to ascertain what an average daily dosage should be. For this reason, a cost per tablet/capsule column is added.

COST PER TABLET/CAPSULE: This cost may be found simply by dividing the number of tablets or capsules in a bottle into the unit cost of the item.

ISSUES FROM MEDICAL SUPPLY BUDGET accounts can utilize the quarterly Stock Status Report to determine the issues to using activities during the three-month period covered in the pamphlet. After three or more years of experience have been acquired, an analysis can be made that will show if the program is effective. If the physicians use the pamphlet, there should be a gradual decrease in the consumption of higher priced pharmaceuticals and an increased consumption in the moderate and lower priced pharmaceuticals.

COLLATION VALUE OF ISSUES: The column shows the dollars being spent on specific medications during a given three-month period. Notes can be added at the bottom of each list to emphasize price difference, that is, "Combination of Chlorpromazine and Prochlorperazine is a similar formula to that of Ornade capsules. Note difference in cost per day: 2¢ as compared to 12¢."

The formulation of the pamphlet can be initially accomplished in approximately 16 man-hours of labor, and easily updated each quarter. Success will be determined primarily by the interest shown by the medical staff.

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