

10508 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

by military physicians and filled in military hospitals for brand-name products may be filled with generic equivalent products except when the physicians specifically require that such substitutions not be made.

Under CHAMPUS, a DOD-supported program for providing medical care benefits from civilian sources to retired military personnel and military dependents, DOD has not established regulations requiring the use of formularies. Also, it has not encouraged the use of generic drug products for either the inpatient or outpatient portions of the CHAMPUS program.

Veterans Administration

VA requires that each of its medical facilities have a P&T Committee which develops and maintains a drug formulary. This formulary generally consists of monographs on those products selected by the P&T Committee for use in the facility. Generally, prescriptions will not be filled for drug items not included in the formulary. However, exceptions may be made with special permission. These monographs include the nonproprietary names of the drug, therapeutic classification, dosage, and instructions regarding product usage. VA has also instructed its physicians that generic identification of prescribed medications is preferred to the use of brand names.