

10606 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

CHAPTER 4

UNIFORM REPORTING AND MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RELATED REPORTS WOULD IMPROVE SELECTION OF ITEMS FOR CENTRAL MANAGEMENT

The primary method of identifying drugs for possible DPSC and VAMC central management is reviewing field activities' reports of purchases from FSS contracts and local suppliers. Each military service has a different system for reporting medical items purchased locally, and neither DMMB nor DPSC reviews these reports. VAMC reports local procurements, but its voluminous reports contain many errors and no summary. VAMC could use these reports more effectively.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The following table summarizes pertinent aspects of the systems the military services use to obtain data from their medical facilities on procuring medical items, including drugs.

	<u>Number of medical facilities reporting</u>	<u>Frequency of reporting</u>	<u>Medical items required</u>
Army	19	Semi- annually	Those on which expenditures totaled \$1,000 or more.
Navy	93	Quarterly	Those accounting for the highest expenditures during the reporting period. The number ranges from 10 to 50, depending on the reporting facility, but at least 50 percent must be drugs.
Air Force	26	Semi- annually	Those representing the top 15 items purchased with locally assigned stock numbers
Air Force	70	Semi- annually	Those listed in a special catalog of non-centrally stocked medical material