

10624 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

APPENDIX II

DEVELOP JOINT DOD/VA SPECIFICATIONS

A joint effort between the VA, GSA, DOD and other federal agencies to use common specifications for drug procurement has been implemented on a limited degree through the Intra-Governmental Professional Advisory Council on Drugs and Devices (IPADD) and the exchange of DoD developed specifications with VA. While this effort results in a separate specification for each agency, the technical data contained in the specification is normally the same for all agencies. Also, a mechanism is currently available to assist in the development of common Federal Specifications. DSM 4120.3M, Defense Standardization Manual, January 1972, prescribes policies and procedures for the preparation of specifications within DoD. In part, this reference states that "Federal specifications shall be developed for materials, products or services, used or for potential use by two or more Federal Agencies, at least one of which is an agency other than DoD. The common policy of the GSA and DoD provides a basis for determining whether a standardization document is eligible for inclusion in the Federal series. DoD policy governs military participation in the preparation and coordination of Federal specifications and standards, and prohibits the issuance of a military document which duplicates a suitable Federal document.

The Defense Medical Materiel Board has the function to maintain liaison and coordinate with the Defense Supply Agency and other government agencies in all professional-technical matters involving medical materiel. This activity will be specifically tasked to coordinate this matter with DSA and VA and recommend appropriate policy/agreements which will provide for the joint coordination/preparation of specifications for medical materiel having common usage within DoD and VA.

ESTABLISH A UNIFORM REPORTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL PURCHASES

A uniform reporting system incorporating the points contained in your report is a DoD objective. To completely achieve this objective in the near term is considered impractical and too costly since the automated supply systems of the military departments differ and many of the smaller medical supply activities are operating a manual system. Currently the USAF reports all purchases while the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy report high dollar value purchases. As a result