

11856 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

The physician?

The pharmacist?

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare?

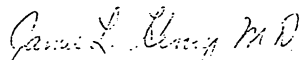
All three?

To summarize, the proposed regulations:

- (1) Lack scientific substantiation.
- (2) Would lower the quality of health care received by Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.
- (3) Would create a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the patient.
- (4) Would result in increases in malpractice actions.
- (5) Would not provide the economy of expenditures claimed.
- (6) Fail to take a logical approach to the problem, which is abuse and over-utilization, rather than costs of individual prescriptions.
- (7) Invade the civil rights of the beneficiaries, specifically their rights to the best quality of medical care.
- (8) Would establish a cold, impersonal, computerized, production line prescription program.
- (9) Fail completely to recognize the enormous red tape and legal traps that would be involved.
- (10) Would cause or tend to cause participating physicians to violate their Principles of Medical Ethics.
- (11) Would violate section 1802 of Public Law 89-97.

Therefore, it is urgently recommended that the proposed regulations be withdrawn and the so-called Maximum Allowable Costs program be abandoned.

Sincerely,



James L. Henry, M.D.,
President
Ohio State Medical Association

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