

12118 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

4. A government-wide quality assurance program for drugs and medical items should be developed.

Because the Food and Drug Administration by law has a national responsibility in these procurement areas, it is recommended that the Director of OMB request the Secretary of HEW to arrange for FDA to assume responsibility for the quality assurance program for all Federal agency procurements; stores and nonstores programs.

In the meantime, the interagency committee should take steps to see that the specific requirements for such a program are developed.