

12076 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

This policy is disliked by physicians as well as pharmacists, primarily because of the paper work involved in requesting special approval. The Department feels this policy is a necessary control, and again, until peer review of drugs is established, the policy is an effective control measure.

CO-PAYMENT:

There is no co-payment policy in the State of Colorado.

Co-payment has been considered, and at one time the Pharmacy Advisory Committee strongly urged the adoption of co-payment.

There are pros and cons for co-payment. We feel to administratively monitor the co-payment would be a nightmare of bookwork. We feel that some pharmacies would not collect the co-payment, and use this as a means of advertising to attract the recipient to his pharmacy. The pharmacist could collect the co-payment portion of the prescription and still bill the Department for the full amount of the prescription, and it would be extremely difficult for us to monitor such a policy. We feel co-payment would encourage overutilization, and some recipients would demand the physician to prescribe larger quantities in order that the co-payment would be paid only once.

Arguments in favor of co-payment are that the prescription volume would be tremendously reduced. This is quite possible, but we feel our overall objective is to provide quality medical care to the recipient, and not introduce a control which