

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 12075

presently adopted and utilized in our Program, and has met with great success; based upon input from DRUG TOPICS periodical, prices are updated on the drug pricing file to maintain current prices.

OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS:

The Department does not include over-the-counter drugs as a benefit, with few exceptions. Recently the Colorado Medical Society recommended to the Department that the Drug Program be changed to allow the Physicians to prescribe any drug as an allowable benefit in the Drug Program, whether prescription legend or over-the-counter. It is extremely difficult to monitor and control over-the-counter drugs, especially for nursing home recipients. Every nursing home recipient is desirous of taking a laxative, an antacid, vitamins, et cetera. Until proper peer review and drug utilization review can be accomplished, over-the-counter drugs will continue to present problems.

There are over-the-counter drug exceptions, such as iron for anemic children, Tedral for the asthmatic child, which the Department is considering for adoption as a benefit.

RESTRICTED DRUGS:

There are certain categories of drugs which present inherent problems, namely: amphetamines and vitamins. The Department has adopted the policy that amphetamines, vitamins, and any drugs not listed in the Drug Formulary should not automatically be allowed as a benefit without prior approval.