

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 11963

There are many other issues--over 200 thus far--that need to be addressed before further action can be taken to implement the MAC policy. Until we have fully analyzed and addressed these issues I cannot predict the substance of a final regulation, but this much I can say:

- The policy will not restrict or encumber the ability of physicians to prescribe as they see fit in the interests of all their patients;
 - It will not discourage or prevent pharmacists from processing Medicaid prescriptions nor deny them equitable reimbursement for their essential professional services;
 - It will not create a second or lower class of care for any beneficiary in a Federally funded program; and
 - It will not discourage new efforts at drug development by the pharmaceutical industry.
- On the contrary, establishing a workable national policy on drug cost reimbursement could pave the way for a drug benefit under national health insurance, and this would in turn almost certainly lead to increased resources for drug development.