

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 11959

A number of pharmacists and physicians expressed concern about the quality of lower cost alternatives and about the possibility they could be held legally liable for an adverse result of therapy with a lower cost drug.

It is difficult for me to understand how a physician could be held liable for prescribing according to official terminology instead of trade names or that a pharmacist could be held liable for dispensing an officially named drug entity in accordance with the prescriber's valid instructions.

The primary responsibility for maintaining quality in the production of drugs necessarily lies with the manufacturers. It is the mission of the Food and Drug Administration to see that manufacturers are fulfilling that responsibility. I hope my earlier remarks are sufficient to assure you that both the manufacturers and the Food and Drug Administration are meeting their respective responsibilities.