

APPENDIX 1

Glossary of certain terms used in the report

approved name—one devised or selected by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission.

bar chart—a graph circulated to GPs by the DHSS, in which comparative prescription cost statistics are shown by means of rectangles (see also *histogram*).

basic NHS price—the sum payable by the NHS for a drug on prescription before the addition of dispensing chemists' professional fees, on-costs or container allowances.

combination product—a term used in this inquiry to refer to those products covered by the reference which consist of more than one drug but in which there are significant quantities of chlordiazepoxide. (There are no diazepam combination products.)

container allowance—a sum paid to a dispensing chemist for the container in which a prescription drug is conveyed and based on the average cost of containers.

'counter-promotion'—a term used by the industry to describe the activities of the DHSS directed at ensuring responsible, appropriate and economical prescribing by General Practitioners under the National Health Service.

Drug Tariff—an official publication prepared under Regulation 26 of the National Health Service Regulations 1972 governing the reimbursement and remuneration of dispensing chemists under the NHS.

ethical pharmaceuticals—products (generally branded) which are advertised only within the medical and allied professions. They are generally supplied by a chemist only on prescription.

generic—A doctor may prescribe 'generically', ie under the 'approved name' of the drug; in that case a dispensing chemist may dispense any generic version of the drug, or a branded product if he wishes, but will subsequently be paid a set fee previously agreed by DHSS and the profession.

histogram—DHSS's 'bar charts' (qv) have also been referred to as histograms.

on-cost allowance—an additional sum payable to a dispensing chemist calculated as a stated percentage of the basic cost of the prescription dispensed.

'over-the-counter'—an expression used in respect of medicine which may be sold without a doctor's prescription.

prescription medicines—pharmaceutical drugs, whether proprietary or otherwise, other than those advertised to the general public.

proprietary—a drug manufactured and sold under a brand name. If the prescription specifies the proprietary name (as distinct from the approved name) the dispensing chemist may only dispense the branded product. Non-proprietary drugs are those produced by one or more manufacturers under a generic name.

professional fee—the sum payable to a dispensing chemist for each prescription dispensed based on the nature of the prescription.

standard drugs—products listed in one of the standard works of reference.