

## Quality of Drug Prescribing in "O.G.A" (A Government Health Insurance Agency for Agricultural People)

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### INTRODUCTION- SUBJECTIVE

Until today (Up to date) drug consumption in "O.G.A" and the factors related to it have not been studied, in spite the fact that "O.G.A" is the second largest health insurance service in Greece, with approximately 2.500.000 insured clients. It is not widely known that not purely scientific medical factors affect the drug prescriptions' quality and may cause health damages. These "non medical" factors are the object of this study. The subjective of this study is to arrive to conclusions regarding the quality of prescribing in "O.G.A" in the region of Trikala, in Thessalia, in the period 1/1/97-31/12/97.

### METHOD

30.355 drug prescriptions of "O.G.A", prescribed in 1997, were studied. The evaluation was achieved with a specially designed data base and with a strict use of statistic methods.

### RESULTS

The prescriptions lack information that are considered important, such as the age of the patient, the patient's code number and the code number of the disease.

Parameters like the following were studied: a) percentage of illegible prescriptions (Table 1), b) frequency of prescribing drugs without writing the diagnosis (table 1), c) frequency of inscribed instructions of use (Table 1), frequency of prescribing drugs with doubtful efficacy (Table 2). In addition, the percentage of prescribing drugs without specifying their formulation (Table 3), and

the frequency of vague diagnoses (Table 4) were estimated.

Table 1

% of illegible prescriptions	8,46%
% of prescriptions with no diagnosis	0,83%
% of lacking instructions of use	79,4%

Table 2. Drugs with no efficacy

Category	% Packages	%Cost
Psychostimulants (Nootropicals)	1,97%	2,74%
Peripheral vasodilating agents- Vascularprotectants	2,49%	2,30%

Table 3. 3% of incorrectly written prescriptions

Doctor's code number	percentage
(1)	42,42%
(2)	19,72%
(3)	13,51%
(4)	5,56%

Table 4

% of vague diagnoses	17,11%
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### CONCLUSIONS

- 1) High percentage of prescribing drugs with no efficacy.
- 2) High percentage of prescriptions that lack instructions of use.
- 3) Lack of diagnoses.
- 4) Too many illegible prescriptions.
- 5) Significant number of badly written prescriptions.

### GENERAL CONCLUSION

The quality of drug prescribing in the region that was studied (in spite of the drugs that were prescribed) is low, a fact that may have a dangerous impact to the insured clients.