



ISSUE: Criteria for activities in program areas not specifically defined in Public Law 89-239

A. Disease categorical versus comprehensive projects

The Division staff recommends that Council reaffirm its position as follows:

The National Advisory Council reaffirms the policy on categorical emphasis which is contained in the Guidelines, Chapter 3, item V - Eligible Activities:

The focus of Regional Medical Programs under the authorizing legislation is on problems of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and related diseases. This broad categorical approach must be a consideration in the development of specific Program elements under a Regional Medical Program. Because of the broad scope of heart disease, cancer, and stroke, it would be difficult and perhaps detrimental to some types of medical services and educational activities if a rigidly categorical approach were adopted for all relevant Program elements. The emphasis of the Program does require that the component elements be shown to have significance for combating heart disease, cancer, stroke, and related diseases through a regional effort intended to improve the care of all those persons within the Region suffering from one of these diseases. However, in some instances, activities which have a more general impact extending beyond the specific problems of heart, cancer, stroke, and related diseases may need to be supported because they are essential to the achievement of the purposes of Regional Medical Programs.

The objectives of improved patient care for those suffering from these categorical diseases will require the full development of the process of regionalization, particularly in the Program's operational phases. Therefore, individual, categorical activities should be designed and implemented in ways which will insure their regional rather than organizational or institutional identity.

In so doing, however, it stipulates that support may be given

to activities which pertain to problems in heart, cancer, stroke, and related disease but also have an impact on the diagnosis and treatment of other diseases or also fulfill a specified objective of the Region.

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