SUMMARY of DRUGS USED for DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE

According to Oregon's latest official report, deaths occurred after patients took the following prescribed drugs:

- Secobarbital (Seconal) 60%
- Pentobarbital (Nembutal) 39%
- Other 1%

Secobarbital (Seconal) and Pentobarbital (Nembutal) are barbiturates, sedatives.

The usual therapeutic dosage for each is:

- **Secobarbital:**
  - Oral: 100-200 mg.
  - I.V.: 50-250 mg.
  - Preoperative sedation: 200-300 mg.

- **Pentobarbital:**
  - Oral: 100-200 mg.
  - I.V.: 100-200 mg.
  - Rectal: 120-200 mg.
  - Preoperative sedation: 150-200 mg.

The usual doctor-prescribed suicide dose for each is:

- **Secobarbital:** 9 grams (9000 mg.)
  - In capsule form. Capsules opened and contents mixed with sweet substance to mask the taste.

- **Pentobarbital:** 10 grams (10,000 mg.)
  - In liquid form. Mixed with sweet liquid to mask the taste.

Although oral self-administration is generally thought to be the only route of administration, there are reported cases of using a syringe to administer the lethal dose.

Cost of drugs for doctor-prescribed suicide:

Pentobarbital has become extremely difficult to obtain since manufacturers are refusing to supply it because it is used for lethal injections in capital punishment. Secobarbital is increasingly used but costs $1,500 to $2,300 for a lethal amount (more than five times the price of pentobarbital).

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