THE IMMORTALITY GAME

You have been selected to a secret committee to offer recommendations to the R.D. Klaf Drug Company on a new drug they have developed. All information that you are given today is highly secret. Only you, other members of the committee and the company know of this data.

The Klaf Drug Company has developed and tested to its satisfaction a new drug that prolongs life indefinitely. When injected, it will keep the person receiving the drug at the age he or she is at for one year. The person will not age in any way during that time.

“If the drug is continued on a once-per-year basis, a person can stay alive indefinitely at the age he or she is. The drug does not, however, protect from accident or sickness. It cannot stop cancer or heart problems except that some of these problems occur more frequently in old age.

The cost of producing the drug is extremely low: 10¢ per shot. It does not need refrigeration; it seems to have no side affects after testing it for five years on humans. The drug does not inhibit pregnancy. If one gets off the drug, aging begins again normally.

Your job as a committee will be to carefully analyze the implications of releasing the drug and to decide if this drug should or should not be released for public use. If you decide it should not, then you must recommend what should be done with the present information and justify your reasons for not releasing it.

In initially analyzing the implications of releasing the drug, please use questions listed below. Later, you will be provided more specific questions related to this situation.

1. What are the potential benefits of releasing this drug?

2. What are the potential negative effects associated with releasing this drug?

3. What initial choice does your committee make related to release of the drug and why?
   a. If you choose to release this drug, what controls would you recommend?
   b. If you choose not to release this drug, what would you do with the present information?