

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
P.O. BOX 5013,
WELLINGTON.

7 April 1971.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 106

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

WORLD HEALTH DAY: 7 April 1971

THEME: "A FULL LIFE DESPITE DIABETES"

The 50th anniversary of the discovery of insulin (1971) is given by the WHO as one reason for choosing the theme.

A letter from the World Health Organization also states:

"It is increasingly important to inform the public about the problem the individual diabetic has to face, promote the early detection of the disease, and enable as many diabetics as possible to lead a full life."

WHO Day 1971 in New Zealand will be marked by the following:

- Utilisation of primary news media to provide public information on a national level; arranged by the Diabetic Association of New Zealand and the Department of Health.
- Local programmes organised by district health offices.
- A pamphlet, "Diabetes", briefly describing the disease, its cause, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment, is expected to be available for distribution by district health offices by the beginning of April.

COST OF LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The ready availability of laboratory diagnostic services to private practitioners in this country is a valuable feature of our health scheme, which has often been commended by medical visitors from overseas.

The cost of the services rendered by private laboratories has doubled in the past 5 years. This is attributable largely to increased use of these services, rather than to the introduction of new tests.

It is the Department's policy to avoid any action which might tend to discourage the proper use of these services, so long as reasonable discrimination is exercised. Most pathologists spend a good deal of their time in discussing the tests most appropriate in various clinical situations. It is believed that failure by certain general practitioners to ask for desirable investigations is still a more prominent feature of our medial scene than any tendency towards excessive use of these services.

Many doctors have expressed interest in the cost of the tests they order. We append a select list of costs of the tests in most common use, which we hope you will find of interest.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. Thompson.

(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,

A. H. Paul

(A. H. Paul)
Deputy Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

SCALE OF FEES: COMMONLY USED LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Code Reference		Fees Payable to Recognised Pathologists \$
HAEMATOLOGY		
A. 1	Blood count complete (red and white cells, Hb., differential count and haematocrit estimations)	1.50
A. 2	Haemoglobin estimation	0.50
A. 3	Red cell count or packed cell volume	0.50
A. 5	Differential white cell count or examination of blood film or both	0.50
A. 6	Blood sedimentation rate (or equivalent test)	0.50
A. 10	Blood prothrombin test	1.50
A. 13	L.E. cell test	2.00
BLOOD GROUPING		
B. 1	A.B.O.	0.50
B. 2	Rhesus group	0.50
B. 6	Serum screening for antibodies—antenatal	2.00

GENERAL BIOCHEMISTRY

(Quantitative examinations of blood, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, sweat, saliva, amniotic fluid, faeces, exudates, etc. Qualitative examinations are excluded except where specified.)

Code Reference	Fees Payable to Recognised Pathologists \$
C. 1 Non-protein nitrogen or urea nitrogen	1.00
C. 2 Glucose (or other sugar)	1.00
C. 6 (a) Cholesterol	2.00
C. 6 (c) Triglycerides	2.00
C. 7 Uric acid	2.00
C. 15 Alkaline phosphatase	2.00
C. 18 Transaminase—	
(a) S.G.O.T.	2.00
(b) S.G.P.T.	2.00
C. 23 Protein bound iodine	4.00
C. 28 T_3I^{131} , red cell or resin uptake, or equivalent	2.00

BIOCHEMICAL FUNCTION TESTS

G. 6 Liver function tests (flocculation or precipitation)—	
Each test	0.50
Maximum	1.50

BACTERIOLOGY: DIRECT EXAMINATIONS AND CULTURES

H. 2 (a) Examination of pus, sputum, urine, faeces, exudates, etc., by direct smear and aerobic culture	2.00
H. 6 Antibiotic sensitivity tests—	
Each test	0.50
Maximum	1.00

BACTERIOLOGY: MICROSCOPY

I. 1 Urine: examination centrifuged deposit	1.00
I. 4 Direct examination for trichomonads	1.00

BACTERIOLOGY: SEROLOGY AND SKIN SENSITIVITY TESTS

J. 4 Heterophile antibody (Paul-Bunnell)—	
(a) Screening (slide)	0.50
(b) Presumptive	1.00
(c) Presumptive and confirmatory	3.00
J. 5 Tests for syphilis and gonorrhoea—	
(a) Fluorescent treponemal test	3.00
(b) Complement fixation test	1.00
(c) Flocculation or precipitation test	0.50
J. 7 Serological tests for auto-immune diseases—	
(a) Screen test	1.00
(b) Titre	2.00

Code
Reference

Fees Payable
to Recognised
Pathologists

MORBID HISTOLOGY AND CYTOLOGY

				\$
K. 1	Histological examination per case—			
	1. Single specimen (minor)	4.00
K. 2	Cytological examination—			
	(a) Cervical smears (per case)	1.50
	(b) Other cytological examinations	3.00

TELEPHONED PRESCRIPTIONS: AMPHETAMINES

The Poisons Regulations 1964 have been amended to prohibit the prescribing of amphetamines by telephone. This amendment was effective from 11 March 1971.