

27 July 1959.

Clinical Services Letter No. 11

TO ALL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Sir/Madam,

PAYMENT FOR MULTIPLE INOCULATIONS

The attitude of the Medical Services Advisory Committee on this matter is as follows:

The committee takes the view that there is an essential difference between the inoculation of members of one family and the inoculation of large groups. The time and trouble involved per patient is normally much less with organised groups than it is with a family group, whether in the home or in the surgery. Doctors dealing with large numbers may be expected to ensure that the arrangements are efficient enough to avoid unnecessary waste of time.

Multiple Inoculations of a Family

With separate family groups the committee considers it unreasonable in ordinary circumstances to expect a doctor to claim a benefit of less than 7s. 6d. for each inoculation.

Large Groups

With large groups, however, the committee feels that payment should be on a different basis. The doctor should state the actual time spent on giving the injections, and the number of persons inoculated, and submit a reasonable claim for the work done. Doctors who are approached by organisations wishing to arrange for mass inoculations in public halls would be well advised to consult the Medical Officer of Health beforehand. The full benefit per patient would not normally be payable in such circumstances.

LABELLING OF DRUGS

Drugs obtainable on a Medical Practitioner's Supply Order are intended for:

(a) Personal administration to patients. (All materials for injection should be obtained in this way.)

(b) Emergency use.

They are not meant to be issued as ordinary supplies to patients.

The Pharmacy Board has received complaints that in some instances considerable quantities of tablets or capsules have been handed to patients, without being labelled. This could obviously be dangerous. Only small quantities (for example, an overnight supply) should be issued in emergency, and should at least be placed in an envelope bearing written directions.

P.T.O.

STANDARD ADVERTISING CARDS

For some time we have been encouraging drug manufacturers and agents to adopt a standard advertising card. A convenient size is 4 in. x 6 in., which will fit in a desk drawer. The larger card which some British firms have been issuing can be folded to about this size.

The following firms are distributing a conveniently sized card at present:

Allen and Hanburys Ltd.
Benger's Ltd.
Ciba Laboratories Ltd.
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.
May and Baker Ltd.
Merck, Sharp, and Dohme.
Wm. S. Merrell Co.
Paines and Byrne Ltd.
Riker Laboratories Ltd.

Names of other firms adopting standard cards will be published from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. Simpson.

Director, Division of Clinical Services.

POSTSCRIPT

Expenditure Returns for April to June have just come to hand.

Pharmaceutical costs have shown a staggering increase: no less than 26 per cent over the same period last year. Prescriptions have increased both in number (9.3 per cent)* and average cost.

If continued, this trend would bring the year's total to over £6,000,000.

An emergency meeting has been called of the two advisory committees principally concerned, to consider what action should be taken.

In the meantime, please try to reduce your prescribing costs.

*Population increase only amounted to 2.2 per cent.