

IMPORTANT

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

24 August 1959

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 12

TO ALL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Sir/Madam,

RESTRICTIONS ON PERIOD OF SUPPLY

An emergency combined meeting of the two principal advisory committees concerned with pharmaceutical benefits* was held on 27 July. This meeting was convened as the result of the recent sharp increase in costs, which threatens to raise the current year's expenditure to over £6 million.

This is, in part, attributed to a growing tendency for doctors to prescribe larger quantities for reasons not readily apparent.

The following measures were unanimously recommended at this meeting and have since been approved by the Minister of Health:

1. Ordinary prescriptions are restricted to a maximum quantity equivalent to a seven days' supply, plus (if suitably endorsed) one similar "repeat".
2. Extended supplies prescriptions (which must be endorsed "Extended supply . . . months") are restricted to the drugs listed on the attached schedule.
3. Topical applications containing hydrocortisone in strengths exceeding 1 per cent will not be a charge on the Fund.
4. Penicillin oral preparations are limited to five days' supply with no repeat (except for rheumatic prophylaxis).

The above restrictions apply to all prescriptions presented to chemists on and after 1 September 1959.

Special Supplies

It will, of course, still be open to a doctor to ask for approval of a special supply of medicine for any particular patient. Such applications should be in writing, and should set out, very briefly, the grounds for the application. A prescription should be enclosed for certification. Applications may be posted direct to this office.

*These are the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Committee, and the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee. The former consists of two physicians, a surgeon, a paediatrician, a university professor, and a general practitioner.

Purchase of Additional Supplies

Where a doctor prescribes a drug which is not listed in the enclosed schedule, for an extended supply for the patient's own convenience, and the doctor does not consider it necessary to make formal application for special approval, the amount payable from the Fund is limited to fourteen days' supply. The balance is payable by the patient.

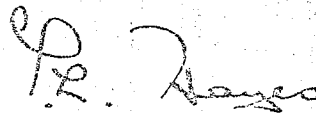
Proprietary Packs

Doctors are urged, when prescribing proprietary packs, to order by packs rather than by stating actual quantities. (e.g., "one small pack".)

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. THOMPSON)
Director,



(T. L. HAYES)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is desired to record, with thanks, the assistance of Dr J. A. Kilpatrick of Dunedin in preparing the article on "Tolbutamide". (Therapeutic Notes No. 14.)

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CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 12—continued

SCHEDULE

The drugs listed below may be ordered for periods up to three months provided the prescriptions are endorsed "extended supply.....months".

Alimentary System

Mixtures (B.P.C., B.N.F., or analagous preparations)—
Acid hydrochloric
Aluminium hydroxide gel
Belladonna and alkali mixtures
Magnesium carbonate B.P.C.
Magnesium carbonate aromat. B.P.C.
Magnesium trisilicate B.P.C.
Magnesium trisilicate and belladonna B.P.C.

Powders—

Kaolin compound B.P.C.
Magnesium carbonate compound B.P.C.
Magnesium trisilicate
Magnesium trisilicate compound B.P.C.

Tablets—

Alkaline compound, milk-dextrin type (e.g., Gastrobrom)
Aluminium hydroxide
Aluminium hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide (e.g., Aludrox)
Aluminium hydroxide and magnesium trisilicate (e.g., Gelusil)
Atropin sulphate
Magnesium carbonate compound
Magnesium trisilicate
Magnesium trisilicate compound
Sodium bicarbonate
Sodium bicarbonate compound

Cardiovascular System

Tablets—

Dicoumarol (e.g., Dicoumarin)
Digitalis
Digitalis compound
Digitoxin
Digoxin
Diphenadione (e.g., Didandin)
Ethyl biscoumacetate (e.g., Tromexan)
Glyceryl trinitrate (all types)
Hydroxycoumarin (e.g., Marcoumar)
Pentaerythritol tetranitrate (e.g., Mycardol, Peritrate)
Phenindione (e.g., Indema, Dindevan)
Quinidine
Theobromine and phenobarbitone
Triethanolamine tetranitrate (e.g., Praenitron)

Central Nervous System

Capsules—

Paramethadione (e.g., Paradione)
Troxidone (e.g., Tridione)

Mixtures—

Belladonna and/or stramonium mixtures (B.N.F. or analagous preparations)
Paramethadione Troxidone

Tablets—

Amylobarbitone (e.g., Amytal)
Amylobarbitone sodium (e.g., Amytal Sodium)
Aspirin
Aspirin, soluble
Benzhexol hydrochloride (e.g., Artane, Pipanol)
Butobarbitone (e.g., Soneryl)
Caramiphen (e.g., Parpanit)
Cycrimine hydrochloride (e.g., Pagitane)
Diethazine hydrochloride (e.g., Diparcol)
Ethiopropazine hydrochloride (e.g., Lysivane)
Hyoscine hydrobromide
Mephesisin (e.g., Myanesin)
Methoin (e.g., Mesantoin)
Methoin and phenobarbitone (e.g., Hydantal)
Neostigmine bromide (e.g., Prostigmin)
Orphenadrine hydrochloride (e.g., Disipal)
Phenytoin
Phenytoin and phenobarbitone (e.g., Garoin)
Phenacetin
Phenobarbitone
Phenobarbitone sodium
Primidone (e.g., Mysoline)
Procyclidine (e.g., Kemadrin)
Pyridostigmine bromide (e.g., Mestinon)
Sodium salicylate
Troxidone

Genito-urinary System

Tablets—

Ammonium chloride
Dienoestrol
Hexoestrol
Stilboestrol

Infections

Penicillins } all forms, only in rheumatic
Sulphonamides } prophylaxis
Chloroquine

Nutrition and Metabolism

Insulin (all forms)
Iodine solution (aqueous)
Iron preparations (B.N.F. preparations or analagous)
Pituitary, posterior lobe (all forms) (e.g., Disipidin, Pituitrin)
Tablets—
Calcium, (all forms) alone or with vitamin D
Carbimazole (e.g., Neo-Mercazole)
Iron (all types)
Methylthiouracil
Propylthiouracil
Tolbutamide (e.g., Artosin, Rastinon)
Thyroid
Thyroxine (all forms) (e.g., Eltroxin)

Respiratory System

Capsules—
Aminophyllin, amylobarbitone, ephedrine hydrochloride (e.g., Amesec)
Mixtures—
Lobelia and/or stramonium
Tablets—
Aminophyllin
Aminophyllin with phenobarbitone and ephedrine (e.g., Amiphen)
Ephedrine (all forms)
Ephedrine with phenobarbitone
Isoprenaline (all forms)

Eye Preparations

Eye drops

Diagnostic Agents

Benedict's solution
Clinitest tablets

Preparations for Local Use

The maximum quantity (except in exceptional circumstances) for any applications used locally should be limited to the following quantities. Smaller quantities will often suffice.

Applications 4-6 oz	Inhalations 2 oz
Creams 1 oz	Liniments 2 oz
Dusting Powders 2 oz	Lotions 4-6 oz
Ear Drops $\frac{1}{2}$ oz	Mouthwashes 4-6 oz
Eye Drops 2 dr.	Nasal Drops $\frac{1}{2}$ oz
Eye Lotions 6 oz	Nasal Sprays 1 oz
Gargles 4 oz	Ointments 1 oz
Glycerines 2 oz	Pastes 1 oz
Hydrocortisone Ointment 5-10 g. (Maximum strength 1%)	Paints 1 oz
Hydrocortisone Lotions 15-20 ml. (maximum strength 1%)	Pessaries 6
	Shampoos, medicated 4 oz
	Stomach Powders 4 oz
	Suppositories 6