

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

20 November 1973.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 130
TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
(Copy to Retail Pharmacists)

Dear Doctor,

DRUG TARIFF 1970, AMENDMENT NO. 11:
EFFECTIVE 1 DECEMBER 1973

Amendments to the Drug Tariff are cumulative, amendments 1-10 should be destroyed.

Additions

1. To be available from a retail pharmacy:
 - Terbutaline sulphate metered aerosol (Medihaler Feevone).
 - Ferrous gluconate with folic acid tablets (Fergon Folic).
 - Diethypropion hydrochloride long acting tablets (Tenuate Dospan).
 - Nimorazole (Naxogin).
 - Mesterolone (Proviron)—specialist.
 - Terbutaline sulphate (Bricanyl).
 - Rose bengal (Rose Bengal "Minims")—only on a medical practitioner's supply order.
 - Metoclopramide hydrochloride ampoules (Maxolon)—only on a medical practitioner's supply order.
 - Pentazocine tablets (Fortral)—only on a medical practitioner's supply order.
2. To be available from a hospital pharmacy on the recommendation of a specialist:
 - Pimozide (Orap).
 - Thiothixene liquid and 30 mg tablets (Navane oral concentrate and Navane 30 mg tablets).
 - Pancreatin (Viokase).
 - Amoxycillin trihydrate (Amoxil).
 - Baclofen (Lioresal).
 - Tropicamide eye drops (Mydriacyl).
 - Dexamethasone, neomycin sulphate, and polymyxin B eye drops (Maxitrol).

3. To be available from a hospital pharmacy:
Metoclopramide hydrochloride tablets and syrup (Maxolon).
Pentazocine tablets (Fortral).

Alterations

1. To be available from a retail pharmacy without further restriction:
Calcium glucono-galacto-gluconate (Calcium Sandoz effervescent).
Pizotifen (Sandomigran).
Alprenolol (Aptin).
Alprenolol long acting tablets (Aptin Durules).
Oxprenolol hydrochloride (Trasicor).
Practolol (Eraldin).
Prindolol (Visken).
Propanolol hydrochloride (Inderal).
Cortisone and cortisone acetate tablets (Cortelan).
Fludrocortisone and its esters in tablets (Florinef).
Hydrocortisone and hydrocortisone acetate tablets.
Chlormethiazole and its esters (Hemineurin).
2. To be available from a hospital pharmacy without further restriction:
Carbenicillin injection (Pyopen).
Cephalothin sodium injection (Keflin).
Cephaloridine injection (Ceporan).
Corticotrophin injection (Acthar).
Corticotrophin long-acting injection (Cortico-Gel, Acthar-Gel, Cortrophine ZN).
Tetracosactrin (Synacthen).
Tetracosactin, long acting (Cortrosyn Depot, Synacthen Depot).
Beclamide (Nydrane).
Lactulose (Duphalac).
Mefenamic acid (Ponstan).
Quinidine bisulphate long-acting tablets (Kinidin durules).
Clofazimine (Lamprene).
3. To be available from a retail pharmacy on the recommendation of a specialist:
Capreomycin (Caprocin).
Lithium carbonate (Camcolit, Lithicarb).
4. To be deleted from the Drug Tariff:
Butaperazine (Randolectil).
5. *Specialist Recommendation*—Please note, with drugs only available on the authorisation of a specialist, that the designation of the specialty is no longer required and these are not now listed in the Drug Tariff. Section 16 of Part 1 of the Schedule to the Drug Tariff makes it quite clear that medical practitioners may only prescribe such drugs to the extent of the specialty in which they are recognised.

Metric Abbreviations

The Metric Advisory Board have pointed out that the correct symbols to describe metric units are:

Capacity	..	..	..	millilitre	ml
				litre	ℓ
Weight	..	..	..	gram	g
				kilogram	kg

Your co-operation is sought in utilising these internationally accepted abbreviations in all prescribing. Where possible, the script letter should be used as the symbol for the litre, in order to avoid confusion with the numeral "1". Otherwise, it is advisable to spell the word in full.

Rejection of Prescriptions by Pricing Office

A large number of prescriptions sent to pricing offices have to be returned to pharmacists for breaches of the regulations; a proportion of these have in turn to be referred back to the medical practitioner.

The time and effort involved and not infrequently the associated ill-feeling generated could be materially reduced by prescribers' attention to the following points:

- (a) Name and *address* of the patient and prescriber should be stated.
- (b) All prescriptions written for more than 7 days supply should be endorsed with the words "extended supply". For supplies of up to 1 month the actual quantity required should be stated, and from 1-3 months the period of supply, e.g., extended supply—1 month.
- (c) Strengths where applicable should be stated, the dose and frequency should be indicated on all prescriptions, and are mandatory in the case of prescription poisons and narcotics.
- (d) Badly written prescriptions still continue to cause difficulties, and in some cases the signature of the doctor is not clear. It is requested that if personalised notepaper is not used, the name is legibly printed below the signature.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(A. H. Paul)
Deputy Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

GROUP PRACTICE LOAN SCHEME

Cabinet has agreed to a liberalisation of loan assistance under the group practice loan scheme, which will apply to new proposals under consideration as at 27 August 1973.

The effect of the new policy is that loans may be granted for group practice premises not yet established, up to a maximum of 90 percent of the total approved cost of the project, or \$20,000 per participating doctor, whichever amount is the lesser. The previous overall maximum of \$50,000 for any one project has been removed, with the aim of facilitating the formation of larger groups of general practitioners where it is considered this will make for an upgrading of primary medical services in a given area. Each case will be considered on its merits.

Priority will be given to areas in which the need for more general practitioners and improved primary medical services has been established to the satisfaction of the department.

Information leaflets giving details of the revised scheme may be obtained from either the medical officer of health or the Director-General of Health.