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

30 January 1975

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 147

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(Copy to Proprietors of Retail Pharmacies)

Dear Sir/Madam,

PRACTOLOL (ERALDIN)

From 1 March 1975 supplies of practolol (Eraldin) will no longer be made available to retail and wholesale outlets by ICI New Zealand Ltd. Limited supplies will be made available for use in hospitals.

This action has the concurrence of the New Zealand Committee on Adverse Drug Reactions. It has been taken because of continuing reports in New Zealand and from other countries of severe reactions involving the cornea, skin, pericardium, and peritoneum, not all of which are reversible.

It is imperative that treatment should not cease suddenly. Most patients will require to be changed over to another beta-blocker. Fatalities have followed the sudden cessation of treatment with practolol.

Recall has been delayed until 1 March to enable patients to collect **one** repeat of a current extended supply prescription. Pharmacists are requested to advise such patients to consult their doctors well before their supplies are exhausted. Outstanding repeats on current prescriptions should not be dispensed by either retail or hospital pharmacies after 1 March.

No new prescriptions for practolol should be issued from the date of receipt of this letter. Stocks will not be available at retail pharmacies after 1 March.

Limited supplies will be made available to hospitals for use in cases where continued treatment with practolol may be considered essential.

Doctors are urged to take special care to report adverse reactions to any of the beta-blockers, to the Medical Assessor, New Zealand Committee on Adverse Drug Reactions, Box 913, Dunedin.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. Thompson. D. A. Andrews.

(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,

(D. A. Andrews)
Deputy Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

A. R. SHEARER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—1975

57495H—6,500/1/75G