



Department of Health,
P.O. Box 5013,
Wellington.

18 March 1977.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 164

To Medical and Dental Practitioners

(Copy to Proprietors of Retail Pharmacies)

Drug Tariff 1974, Amendment No. 9: Effective 1 April 1977.

This Clinical Services Letter will be the only record most will have of the present changes to the Tariff. As it is not a cumulative list, it is suggested that this letter, along with earlier Clinical Services Letters, should be retained for reference purposes.

1. To be available from a retail pharmacy:

Additions

- Clobetasol propionate scalp lotion (Dermovate scalp lotion).
- Fenoprofen calcium capsules (Fenopron).
- Triamcinolone acetonide with nystatin, neomycin sulphate, and gramicidin ear drops (Kenacomb ear drops).

Changed Availability

- Ketoprofen capsules (Orudis).
- Methylprednisolone acetate injection (Depo-Medrol).
- Naproxen tablets (Naprosyn).

2. To be available from a retail pharmacy on the prescription or recommendation of a specialist:

Additions

- Clonazepam (Rivotril).
- Desmopressin nasal drops (Minirin).
- Emepronium bromide tablets (Cetiprin).
- Procainamide hydrochloride long-acting tablets (Procainamide Durules).

3. To be available from a retail pharmacy on a Practitioners Supply Order:

Addition

- Bupivacaine hydrochloride injection (Marcain Plain).

4. To be available from a retail pharmacy only on a midwifery order in packs of 30 ml:

Addition

Iodine with hydroiodic acid solution (Wescodyne).

5. To be available from a hospital pharmacy:

Additions

Acebutolol hydrochloride (Sectral).

Atenolol (Tenormin).

Metoprolol tartrate (Betoloc, Lopresor).

Triptassium dicitrato-bismuthate (De-Nol).

6. To be available from a hospital pharmacy on the prescription or recommendation of a specialist:

Addition

Trisoralen tablets (Trioxsalen).

7. Deleted from the Drug Tariff:

Doxycycline hydrochloride suspension (Vibramycin).

Oxytetracycline, calcium salt, syrup (Imperacin, Ossitetra).

Tetracycline hydrochloride with amphotericin syrup (Mysteclin-V syrup).

Tetracycline hydrochloride, phosphate buffered, syrup, and suspension (Achromycin V, Panmycin KM, Quadcin-V).

Tetracycline hydrochloride paediatric drops (Panmycin Aquadrops).

Tetracycline hydrochloride syrup (Hostacycline).

Tetracycline hydrochloride capsules 100 mg (Panmycin P).

Deletion of Paediatric Forms of Tetracyclines

On several occasions the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee has been asked to consider whether or not paediatric presentations of tetracyclines should remain a charge under the Drug Tariff.

Although the matter was discussed in Therapeutic Notes No. 129, of 1 May 1974, paediatric preparations continue to be used.

Following evidence from a recent survey, members of the dental profession have expressed concern at the prevalence of toothstaining and asked that the situation be reviewed. The committee has now recommended that paediatric presentations of the tetracyclines be deleted from the Drug Tariff, with effect from 1 April 1977.

Dermovate Scalp Lotion

This is a valuable preparation for use in cases which are unresponsive to other topical steroid medication. It is more potent and more expensive than Betnovate scalp application, and therefore medical practitioners are asked

not to prescribe it as a first-line treatment. It is mainly indicated for psoriatic scalp conditions.

Corticosteroid Intra-articular Injections

The prices now charged for Depo-Medrol are considerably lower than those for Kenacort-A.

There is some concern about the high usage of the higher strength corticosteroid intra-articular injections. A number of Practitioners Supply Orders recently submitted have drawn attention to the heavy cost of routine use of Kenacort A 40 mg per ml for this purpose.

This matter will be referred to the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee when it meets in April. In addition, there is the possibility that only partial payment from public funds will be made for all strengths of Kenacort A.

Cost/Efficacy Review of Therapeutic Groups

From 1 April 1977, certain anticholinergics, antacids, and diuretics will carry a part charge to the patient. A list of these and also those that will remain a full charge is shown on page 4.

This is a result of the continuing review being carried out by the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee. Reference was made to this on page 4 of Clinical Services Letter No. 162, of 19 November 1976.

Sorbifer Durules are now more expensive than other iron preparations and will also carry a part charge from 1 April 1977.

The committee has now looked at the following groups: antacids, anticholinergics, anti-emetics, antihistamines, diuretics, peripheral vasodilators, anti-inflammatory agents, beta-adrenergic blocking agents, and major tranquillisers.

In the case of the last two groups, the committee does not consider that further action is required at this time.

Review of the anti-inflammatory group resulted in price reductions of some of the more expensive products with the result that no part charges will be currently necessary.

As a result of discussion on peripheral vasodilators, the price of Hydergine is currently under review.

At its next meeting in April, the committee will probably review bronchodilators, antidepressants, and topical corticosteroids.

Phenformin

The availability of this medicine under the Drug Tariff will be reconsidered by the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee at its meeting in April.

In making its recommendation the committee will be asked to take into account the effect of the statement issued on 20 December 1976 by the

Director-General of Health and the Registrar of Poisons. Comments received from practitioners before 15 April will also be referred to the committee. Should the committee recommend any amendment to the Drug Tariff, this would probably be effective from 1 August 1977.

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Antacids

The following will remain a full charge under the Drug Tariff:

- Alkaline milk dextrine, compound tablets (Gastrobrom).
- Aluminium hydroxide gel, dried tablets (Cremorin).
- Aluminium hydroxide gel, dried, with magnesium trisilicate, magnesium hydroxide, and dimethicone tablets (Gastrogel).
- Calcium carbonate with aminoacetic acid tablets (Titralac).
- Magnesium carbonate tablets, compound, B.P.C.
- Sodium polyhydroxyaluminium monocarbonate hexitol complex tablets (Actal).
- Aluminium hydroxide gel.
- Aluminium hydroxide gel with magnesium hydroxide (Aludrox).
- Magnesium hydroxide mixture, B.P.

The following will carry a part charge from 1 April 1977:

- Calcium carbonate with aminoacetic acid and dimethicone tablets (Titralac-Sil).
- Dihydroxyaluminium sodium carbonate tablets (Daxaid).
- Magnesium-aluminium hydroxide tablets (Maalox).
- Magnesium trisilicate and aluminium hydroxide gel, with or without dried skim milk tablets (Gelusil, Gelusil-Lac).
- Calcium carbonate with aminoacetic acid liquid (Titralac).
- Magnesium-aluminium hydroxide liquid (Maalox).

Anticholinergic Tablets

The following will remain a full charge under the Drug Tariff:

- Dicyclomine hydrochloride (Merbentyl, Merbentyl Dospan).
- Isopropamide iodide (Tyrimide).
- Oxyphenycyclimine hydrochloride (Daricon).

Propantheline bromide (Probanthine).
Tiemonium iodide (Visceralgin).

The following will carry a part charge from 1 April 1977:

Dicyclomine hydrochloride (Wyovin).
Glycopyrronium bromide (Robinul).
Hyoscine methobromide (Pamine Bromide).
Hyoscine N-butylbromide (Buscopan).

Diuretics

The following will remain a full charge under the Drug Tariff:

Bendrofluazide tablets 2.5 mg and 5 mg (Aprinox, Neo-NaClex).
Cyclopenthiazide tablets 0.5 mg (Navidrex).
Methyclothiazide tablets 5 mg (Enduron).
Bumetanide tablets 1 mg (Burinex).
Frusemide tablets 20 mg and 40 mg (Fusid).
Mefruside tablets 25 mg (Baycaron).
Spironolactone tablets 25 mg (Aldactone).
Triamterene tablets 100 mg (Dytac).
Hydrochlorothiazide with amiloride hydrochloride tablets (Moduretic).
Hydrochlorothiazide with triamterene tablets (Dyazide).

The following will carry a part charge from 1 April 1977:

Chlorothiazide tablets 500 mg (Chlotride).
Hydrochlorothiazide tablets 50 mg (Dichlotride).
Polythiazide tablets 2 mg (Nephрил).
Chlorthalidone tablets 50 mg and 100 mg (Hygroton).
Clorexolone tablets 10 mg (Nefrolan).
Frusemide tablets 20 mg and 40 mg (Lasix-M, Lasix).