



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

18 July 1977.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 170

To Medical and Dental Practitioners

(Copy to Proprietors of Retail Pharmacies)

Drug Tariff 1974, Amendment No. 10: Effective 1 August 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

Carbamazepine syrup (Tegretol).

Levonorgestrel tablets (Microlut) with the restriction "Approved condition".

Macrogol polymers.

Malathion shampoo (Prioderm).

Salbutamol sulphate respirator solution (Ventolin).

Wool fat, hydrous, with mineral oil (Nutraspa).

Changed Availability

Quinidine bisulphate long-acting capsules and long-acting tablets (Kinidin as a part-charge, Quiditard).

Sodium fluoride tablets 20 mg (Hi-Fluor).

Diphepanil methylsulphate powder (Prantal) to also be available for paraplegic patients.

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

Changed Availability

Disopyramide (Rythmodan).

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

Additions

Loxapine succinate capsules (Loxapac).

Perhexiline maleate tablets (Pexid).

Perhexiline maleate is one of the medicines involved in the Intensified Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Scheme outlined in Clinical Services Letter No. 165 of 18 March 1977.

4. Deleted from the Drug Tariff:

Diamorphine hydrochloride.

Diamorphine linctus, B.P.C.

Diamorphine and terpin elixir, B.P.C. 1968.

These medicines are Class A controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, and their availability is dependent on the written approval of the Minister of Health.

5. The Drug Tariff now defines a month as 30 days.

The Tariff also stipulates if an "original pack" is prescribed, payment from public funds will be made for the smallest pack available unless instructions contained in the prescription indicate that a larger pack is required.

Cost/Efficacy Review of Therapeutic Groups—Part charges:

At its last meeting the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee reviewed bronchodilators, antidepressants, and topical corticosteroids. It is likely that certain topical corticosteroid presentations, including some combination preparations, will carry a part charge from 1 December 1977. A part charge will possibly also apply in the case of some bronchodilator capsules, tablets and syrups, and some tricyclic antidepressants. As negotiations are taking place with the companies concerned, a list of possible part charges cannot be published at this stage.

In August the committee will review eye, ear, and nasal preparations containing a corticosteroid. Minor tranquillisers will also be reviewed.

A part charge will apply in the case of Gastrobrom tablets from 1 August 1977, as the price of these tablets has increased considerably.

D. A. Andrews

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Director,

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Deputy Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

Intensified A.D.R. Reporting Scheme

Medicines Involved

Acebutolol hydrochloride (Sectral)
Atenolol (Tenormin)
Metoprolol tartrate (Betaloc, Lopresor)
Sotalol hydrochloride (Sotacor)
Perhexiline maleate (Pexid)
Sodium valproate (Epilim)