



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

18 November 1977

## CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 174

**To Medical and Dental Practitioners**  
(Copy to Proprietors of Retail Pharmacies)

### **Drug Tariff 1974, Amendment No. 11: Effective 1 December 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—*

Allantoin with sulphur, menthol, phenol, and coal tar solution cream (Egopsoryl cream).  
Aluminium hydroxide gel with kaolin and pectin (Kemulin).  
Benserazide with levodopa (Madopar).  
Clotrimazole (Canesten).  
Dextropropoxyphene hydrochloride with paracetamol capsules (Capadex).  
Rimiterol hydrobromide aerosol inhaler (Pulmadil Inhaler).  
Tretinoin liquid (Retin-A liquid).

#### *Changed Availability—*

Carbidopa with levodopa (Sinemet).  
Levodopa (Eldopar, Larodopa).

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

#### *Addition—*

Pilocarpine eye inserts (Ocusert Pilo).

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

#### *Addition—*

Dantrolene sodium (Dantrium).

4. Deleted from the Drug Tariff:

Broxyquinoline with brobenzoxaldine (Intestopan, Intestopan Forte).  
Clioquinol with sapamine tablets (Entero-Vioform).  
Halquinol tablets (Quixalin).  
Phenformin hydrochloride (Insoral, Insoral TD).

The reasons for deleting phenformin hydrochloride were stated in a Circular Memorandum dated 16 September 1977. This statement, with more up-to-date information, is repeated in the enclosed Clinical Services Letter No. 173.

The Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee is of the opinion that there is no evidence that oral hydroxyquinolines are of any therapeutic value and therefore recommended their deletion from the tariff.

5. Certain amendments have been made to the body of the Drug Tariff to bring it into line with the Misuse of Drugs legislation. In accordance with those regulations, payment can be made for only 5 days' supply of a controlled drug prescribed by a dentist. If 7 days' treatment is prescribed, the patient would be required to meet the cost of the balance of the prescription.

The amount paid for oxygen and/or nitrous oxide has been increased from 60c to \$1.50 per anaesthetic.

### **Cost/Efficacy Review of Therapeutic Groups—Part-Charges**

In Clinical Services Letter No. 170, reference was made to the groups which had been reviewed by the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee.

The preparations listed below will carry a part-charge to the patient from 1 December 1977. A number of price reductions were made by pharmaceutical companies, thus avoiding a part-charge being imposed on their products.

#### *Bronchodilators—*

Ipradol tablets 0.5 mg (hexoprenaline sulphate).

Numotac tablets 10 mg (isoetharine hydrochloride).

Quibron capsules (guaiphenesin 90 mg with theophylline 150 mg).

Quibron-C capsules (guaiphenesin 60 mg with theophylline 100 mg).

#### *Topical Corticosteroids—*

Locorten cream (flumethasone pivalate).

Locorten-Vioform cream (flumethasone pivalate with clioquinol).

The committee's recommendations concerning tricyclic antidepressants will not be implemented until 1 April 1978. This will allow time for prices to settle after the introduction of strip-packaging.

Possibly from 1 April 1978 there will be part-charges on some minor tranquillisers and on certain eye, ear, and nasal preparations containing a corticosteroid. As negotiations with the companies concerned have not been completed, a list of possible part-charges cannot be published at this stage.

In December the committee will review antibiotics.

### **Membership of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee**

Earlier this year Professor J. M. Watt resigned from the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee after many years of valuable service.

Whilst considering his replacement, opportunity was taken to increase the size of the committee in order to provide a wider range of opinion upon which to make recommendations about the Drug Tariff.

The membership of the committee is now as follows:

Dr D. A. Andrews (Chairman), Department of Health.

New Zealand Medical Association nominees:

Dr J. L. Adams.

Dr H. Marwick (new member).

New Zealand College of General Practitioners nominees:

Dr C. P. Anyon.

Dr D. J. S. Gray.

Royal Australasian College of Physicians nominees:

Dr B. M. Colls (new member).

Dr T. Gebbie.

Ministerial appointments:

Dr L. T. Evans (new member) (Economics Department, Victoria University of Wellington).

Professor L. B. Jellett (new member).

Professor G. S. M. Kellaway.

*D. A. Andrews.*

*A. G. Scott.*

(D. A. Andrews)  
Director,

(A. G. Scott)  
Deputy Director,

Division of Clinical Services

### **INTENSIFIED A.D.R. REPORTING SCHEME**

#### *Medicines Involved*

Acebutolol hydrochloride (Sectral).

Atenolol (Tenormin).

Cimetidine (Tagamet).

Lobetalol (Trandate).

Metoprolol tartrate (Betaloc, Lopresor).

Sotalol hydrochloride (Sotacor).

Perhexiline maleate (Pexid).

Sodium valproate (Epilim).