

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

6 March 1961.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 20

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

COSTS OF LABORATORY TESTS

The Medical Services Advisory Committee have had occasion recently to examine several batches of claims for pathological services. One in four of these claims involved fees exceeding £2, and batteries of tests costing from £5 to £10 a patient were quite common.

In the great majority of the latter the results were uniformly within normal limits.

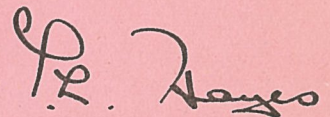
The Committee believe that in many cases doctors are not aware of the cost of these tests. They have therefore recommended that copies of the enclosed schedule of tests and costs should be distributed. We think you will find this of considerable interest.

It is not desired to discourage doctors from using these services, the proper employment of which reduces the demand for hospital beds. The Committee hope, however, that doctors will keep the question of costs in mind, and exercise discretion and clinical judgment in the tests they call for. One or two tests for screening purposes will often obviate the necessity for others.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. THOMPSON)
Director.



(T. L. HAYES)
Assistant Director.

Division of Clinical Services

P.T.O.

VACANCY IN COUNTRY PRACTICE

We would like to hear from any doctor interested in a partnership (or assistantship with a view) in a desirable country practice near Wellington, where the ill health of a doctor is leading to difficulty over medical services to the population locally. House for rent or purchase.

NOT "FREE ON SOCIAL SECURITY"*

It has been reported that certain hormone preparations have been prescribed for contraceptive purposes at the cost of the Fund.

Prescriptions of this nature are specifically excluded from the Drug Tariff, and are therefore NOT a charge on the Fund.

*A vile phrase.

Hamlet, Act II, Sc. 2