



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

8 July 1981.

## CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 204

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

### DRUG TARIFF 1981: EFFECTIVE 1 AUGUST 1981

This Clinical Services Letter will be the only record most will have of the present changes to the Drug 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—*

Chlortetracycline topical powder (Aureomycin)  
Diflunisal tablets (Dolobid)  
Disopyramide and its phosphate as long-acting tablets (Disopyramide Durules, Norpace Retard, Rythmodan Retard)  
Flunitrazepam injection (Rohypnol)  
Ipratropium bromide nebuliser solution (Atrovent)  
Metronidazole, benzoyl oral suspension (Flagyl)

2. To be available from a retail pharmacy on a prescription endorsed "Approved Condition":

#### *Addition—*

Contraceptive caps (Prentif Cervical caps, Vimule caps, Dumas Vault caps)

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

#### *Additions—*

Alfacalcidol capsules (One Alpha)  
Dexamethasone with neomycin sulphate and polymyxin B sulphate eye ointment (Maxitrol)  
Glucose oxidase with peroxidase diagnostic strips for insulin using diabetics (BM-Test-Glycemie 20-800)  
Pipothiazine palmitate injection (Piportil Depot)  
Testosterone enanthate ointment

LIBRARY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
WELLINGTON

Although Dextrostix will continue to be available without specialist restriction, there is concern at the potential for inappropriate use of both Dextrostix and BM-Test-Glycemic 20-800. The latter will, at this stage, be available only on the prescription or recommendation of an appropriate specialist.

The value of these products is in the brittle diabetic, the pregnant woman, and those patients where control is difficult. They are expensive and their use is not necessary for all insulin-using diabetics. Dextrostix should be used only with a suitable colorimeter.

*Changed availability—*

Calcitriol capsules (Rocaltrol)

4. To be available from a retail pharmacy but only on the prescription of a medical practitioner (not on a supply order):

*Changed availability—*

Alpha Keri bath oil and lotion

Balnetar

Nutraspa

Polytar Emollient

Pinetarsol

Egol

5. To be available from a hospital pharmacy:

*Addition—*

Cefaclor monohydrate capsules and oral suspension (Ceclor)

6. Water for injection:

*Changed availability—*

Payment will be made for water for injection only when it is prescribed on the same order or prescription form as an injection requiring a solvent or diluent or when it is used in the extemporaneous compounding of eye drops.

7. Vitamin therapy: The Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee does not support mega-vitamin therapy. The following items have been restricted, therefore, to the presentations and strengths indicated:

Ascorbic acid—except tablets exceeding 100 mg each or a dose of any other preparation which exceeds a strength of 100 mg

Nicotinamide—not exceeding a strength of 50 mg per dose

Nicotinic acid—not exceeding a strength of 500 mg per dose

Pyridoxine hydrochloride—except injections exceeding 50 mg per 2 ml each and in other cases not exceeding a strength of 100 mg per dose

Riboflavin—not exceeding a strength of 10 mg per dose

Thiamine hydrochloride—not exceeding a strength of 50 mg per dose

8. Deletions: Those items which have been omitted from the Drug Tariff as a result of the revision are shown in the attached list. With only one or two exceptions, those items requested for retention have not been deleted.

In addition, the following are no longer a charge under the Drug Tariff:

Protamine zinc insulin

Other insulins, in strengths other than 100 units per ml

Fruzemide tablets 20 mg

Fruzemide tablets 20 mg are being deleted because of their high unit cost.

9. The abbreviation BPC used in the Drug Tariff 1981 refers to the Pharmaceutical Codex which is the title used for the eleventh edition of the British Pharmaceutical Codex.

10. With the exception of controlled drugs, clause 25 (a) of the Drug Tariff 1981 provides for payment for 5 days' treatment per prescription plus a repeat of 5 days' treatment, if necessary, in the case of prescriptions written by dental practitioners.

### **BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY**

The 1981 edition of the BNF is published in a new format. It does not contain formulae as in previous editions. The department will not be purchasing copies for distribution to practitioners and pharmacists. Copies will soon be available for purchase from the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, P.O. Box 9249, Wellington.

### **COST/EFFICACY REVIEW OF THERAPEUTIC GROUPS**

From 1 August the items listed below will carry a part-charge to the patient. This follows reviews of therapeutic groups.

Dextrostix

Hygroton tablets

Cyclospasmol

Ronicol and Ronicol Timespan

In the case of Cyclospasmol, Ronicol, Ronicol Timespan, and Hydergine (which already carries a part-charge) the charge to the patient will be quite considerable. These preparations have been retained in the Drug Tariff for the treatment of peripheral vascular disorders. The Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is evidence of justification for the use of these medicines in the treatment of dementia or cerebral vascular insufficiency. In cases of appropriate use, however, free supplies could be made available as a supplementary pharmaceutical benefit under section 99 of the Social Security Act.

The committee recommended the editorial in the *British Medical Journal* of 1 September 1979 as a good summary of current opinion concerning usage of these medicines.

### **ADJUSTMENT OF DOSE VOLUMES**

Standard metric measuring spoons are available only with a capacity of 5 ml. If an oral liquid medicine is ordered and the dose prescribed does not coincide with 5 ml, the dosage will be adjusted to 5 ml or, if necessary, to a multiple of 5 ml. This does not apply, however, if the medicine is to be delivered by way of a dropper or similar device.

An appropriate amendment has been made to the Drug Tariff following representations from the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand after it had consulted with the New Zealand Medical Association.

## **INTENSIFIED ADVERSE DRUG REACTION REPORTING SCHEME**

The following medicines are currently included in the scheme:

Captopril (Capoten)  
Cimetidine (Tagamet)  
Nifedipine (Adalat)  
Perhexiline maleate (Pexid)  
Sodium valproate (Epilim)  
Sotalol hydrochloride (Sotacor)



(J. S. Phillips)  
Director, Division of Clinical Services.

### **CORRECTION: CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER 202**

#### **Maternity Benefits**

There is an error in Clinical Services Letter 202. The usual antenatal fee of \$6.50 in section A.1 of the schedule of fees should be \$6.00.

## DRUG TARIFF DELETIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Acetarsol pessaries, compound   | Benzylpenicillin ear drops, nasal drops and pessaries    |
| Adrenaline and atropine spray, compound, B.P.C.   | Benzylpenicillin eye ointment                            |
| Adrenaline hydrochloride aerosol inhaler  | Benzylpenicillin solution*tablets, buffered, B.P.C. 1968 |
| Agar  | Bismuth salicylate                                       |
| Alginic acid  | Bromodiphenhydramine hydrochloride                       |
| Aloin   | Buchu infusion   |
| Aluminium magnesium silicate  | Butacaine sulphate                                       |
| Aluminium sodium silicate with belladonna powder  |  |
| Aminosalicylic acid and its salts   | Cachet shells  |
| Amodiaquine hydrochloride   | Calcium aurothiomalate injection                         |
| Amylocaine hydrochloride  | Calcium carbimide tablets                                |
| Angiotensin amide   | Calcium phosphate  |
| Antazoline mesylate   | Capsicum oleoresin, B.P.C.                               |
| Aspirin with caffeine tablets   | Capsicum tincture, B.P.C.                                |
| Atropine and cocaine eye ointment, B.P.C. 1968  | Carmine  |
| Attapulgit with neomycin sulphate   | Cascara extract, dry, B.P.                               |
| Azapetine phosphate   | Cascara and belladonna mixture, B.P.C.                   |
|   | Chloramphenicol pessaries and suppositories              |
| Bacitracin zinc injection   | Chlorthalidone with reserpine tablets                    |
| Beclomethasone dipropionate cream exceeding 0.025 percent strength  | Chromium trioxide  |
| Beclomethasone dipropionate proprietary cream, lotion or ointment, with or without chlortetracycline, clioquinol or neomycin sulphate | Cinchocaine  |
| Beclomethasone dipropionate with lignocaine rectal ointment and suppositories   | Cineole  |
| Belladonna, prepared  | Cinnamic acid  |
| Belladonna extract, dry, B.P.   | Clemizole hydrochloride                                  |
| Belladonna and phenobarbitone tablets, B.P.C.   | Clorexolone  |
| Bendrofluazide with reserpine tablets   | Cocaine and homatropine eye-drops, B.P.C.                |
| Bendrofluazide with reserpine and potassium chloride tablets  | Cocillana extract, liquid, B.P.C.                        |
| Benedict's solution (qualitative)   | Coconut oil, fractionated, B.P.C.                        |
| Benzalkonium bromide solution, B.P.C.   | Congo red  |
| Benzathine penicillin and its salts for oral use (inject. retained)   | Cottonseed oil   |
| Benzocaine injection, compound  | Cresol and soap solution, B.P. 1968                      |
| Benzoin   | Crystal violet pessaries, B.P.C.                         |
| Benzyl alcohol  | Cyanocobalamin injection                                 |
|   | Cyclamic acid  |
|   | Cyclizine tartrate with morphine tartrate injection      |
|   | Cycloserine  |
|   |  |
|   | Dequalinium chloride cream and pessaries                 |
|   | Dexamphetamine sulphate long acting capsules             |

Dibromopropamide isethionate  
with diamidino-diphenylamine  
dihydrochloride otic solution

Dichlorophenamide

Digitalis tincture, B.P.C. 1959

Di-iodohydroxyquinoline

Diphenanil methylsulphate long  
acting tablets

Diphenadione

Diphtheria antitoxin

Dipipanone hydrochloride

Dipropylene citrate

Domiphen bromide

Dybenal ear drops

Emetine with bismuth iodide

Ephedrine with phenobarbitone  
tablets

Ergot extract, liquid, B.P. 1914

Ergot extract, liquid, B.P.C. 1954

Ergotamine tartrate with caffeine  
and meclozine hydrochloride

Erythromycin eye ointment

Erythromycin pessaries and  
suppositories extemporaneously  
prepared

Esbach's reagent

Ethionamide

Ethionamide with isoniazid

Ethopropazine hydrochloride

Ethylmorphine hydrochloride

Fehlings solution No. 1

Fehlings solution No. 2

Fenticlor

Ferric hydroxide (colloidal iron)  
mixture and tablets

Ferric hypophosphite

Ferrous phosphate, quinine and  
strychnine tablets, B.P.C.

Ferrous succinate

Ferrous succinate with succinic acid  
and folic acid tablets

Ferrous sulphate tablets, compound,  
B.P.C.

Fluclorolone acetonide cream and  
ointment

Fluocinolone acetonide cream  
exceeding 0.025 percent strength

Fluphenazine hydrochloride long  
acting tablets

Folinic acid

Framycetin and its salts with  
hydrocortisone and its acetate as  
proprietary topical preparations,  
except ear, nose, and throat  
preparations

Framycetin sulphate with  
hydrocortisone proprietary eye  
preparations

Framycetin sulphate with  
hydrocortisone acetate proprietary  
ear preparations

Framycetin sulphate with kaolin  
suspension

Frusemide with reserpine tablets

Fuchsine (acid) with borax

Ginger oleoresin, B.P.C. 1968

Glyceryl trinitrate solution

Gramicidin

Green S and tartrazine solution,  
B.P.C.

Halquinol ointment

Hamamelis suppositories, B.P.C.

Hexamethonium and its salts and  
esters

Histamine acid phosphate

Hydrargaphen

Hydrargaphen with prednisolone ear  
paint

Hydrochlorothiazide

Hydrochlorothiazide with potassium  
chloride tablets

Hydrochlorothiazide with reserpine  
and potassium chloride

Hydroflumethiazide

Hydroflumethiazide with potassium  
chloride tablets

Hyoscyamus extract, dry, B.P. 1968

Ichthammol pessaries, B.P.C. 1968

Ipecacuanha and ammonia mixture  
for infants, B.P.C.

Ipecacuanha and opium powder,  
 B.P.C.  
 Ipecacuanha and opium tablets,  
 B.P.C.  
 Isinglass  
 Isoniazid with aminosalicic acid  
 and its salts  
 Isoprenaline spray, B.P.C. 1968  
 Isoprenaline spray, compound,  
 B.P.C. 1968  
 Isoprenaline and its salts with  
 atropine and its salts  
 Isoprenaline hydrochloride with  
 atropine methonitrate aerosol  
 inhaler  
 Isoprenaline sulphate  
 Isoprenaline sulphate with atropine  
 methonitrate aerosol inhaler  
 Isothipendyl hydrochloride  
 Isothipendyl hydrochloride long  
 acting tablets  
  
 Lead monoxide  
 Levorphanol tartrate  
 Liquorice powder, compound,  
 B.P.C.  
 Liver extract (with or without added  
 cyanocobalamin) injections  
 Lobeline hydrochloride  
  
 Magenta  
 Magnesium carbonate tablets,  
 compound, B.P.C.  
 Mandelic acid  
 Mastic paint, compound, B.P.C.  
 Mecamylamine hydrochloride  
 Meclozine hydrochloride with  
 pyridoxine hydrochloride tablets  
 Meprobamate long acting capsules  
 Mercaptomerin sodium  
 Mercuramide with theophylline  
 Mercuric nitrate ointment, strong,  
 B.P.C. 1959  
 Mercuric potassium iodide  
 Mercury with chalk, B.P.C. 1954  
 Mersalyl injection  
 Mestanolone  
 Methandienone  
 Methandriol

Metharbital  
 Methionine tablets  
 Methoxamine hydrochloride  
 Methsuximide  
 Methyclothiazide  
 Methylamphetamine hydrochloride  
 capsules  
 Methyl dopa with  
 hydrochlorothiazide and  
 potassium chloride tablets  
 Methylergometrine maleate  
 Methylthiouracil  
 Mitomycins  
  
 Nandrolone phenylpropionate  
 injection  
 Naphazoline nasal-drops, B.P.C.  
 1954  
 Natamycin with hydrocortisone and  
 its salts for oral use  
 Nikethamide injection  
 Nux vomica alkaline mixture, B.P.C.  
 Nux vomica extract, liquid, B.P.  
  
 Opipramol hydrochloride  
 Opium, B.P.C.  
 Opium, powdered, B.P.C.  
 Orange peel infusion  
 Oxymel, B.P.C.  
 Oxyphenonium bromide tablets and  
 long acting tablets  
 Oxytetracycline with lignocaine  
 injection, B.N.F.  
 Oxytetracycline hydrochloride  
 250 mg with glucosamine capsules  
  
 Pancreatin powder, strong, B.N.F.  
 Pancreatin tablets, strong, B.N.F.  
 Paraldehyde draught, B.P.C.  
 Paraldehyde enema, B.P.C.  
 Pempidine tartrate  
 Penicillins with streptomycins for  
 injection, mixed  
 Pentaerythritol tetranitrate, diluted  
 Pentolinium tartrate  
 Perphenazine long acting tablets

Pethidine and atropine injection and tablets	proprietary ear or throat preparations
Pethidine and hyoscine injection and tablets	Prednisolone acetate with neomycin sulphate and polymyxin B sulphate proprietary topical application
Pethidine and levallorphan injection and tablets	Prednisolone pivalate for intra-articular injection
Phenindamine tartrate	Procaine hydrochloride with adrenaline injection
Phenolphthalein	Promethazine hydrochloride with pethidine hydrochloride and hyoscine hydrobromide injection
Phenolphthalein pills, compound	Psyllium
Phenolsulphonphthalein	Pyroxylin
Phensuximide	
Phenylaminosalicylate	Quinestradol capsules
Phenylephrine hydrochloride with thenyldiamine hydrochloride nasal preparations	
Physostigmine	Raspberry juice concentrated, B.P.C.
Physostigmine sulphate	Rothera's reagent
Physostigmine with pilocarpine eye drops, B.P.C.	
Piperazine phosphate and senna extract, standardised	Senega tincture, B.P.C.
Pituitary (posterior lobe) powdered	Senna fruit
Poldine methylsulphate	Senna leaf
Polymyxin B sulphate proprietary ear solution	Senna extract, liquid, B.P.C.
Polymyxin B sulphate proprietary eye drops	Silver nitrate, mitigated, B.P.C.
Polymyxin B sulphate with neomycin sulphate and gramicidin proprietary skin cream	Silver protein, B.P.C.
Polymyxin B sulphate with zinc bacitracin proprietary dusting powder	Sodium acid phosphate
Potassium chloride and sodium chloride injection, B.N.F.	Sodium alginate
Potassium chloride and dextrose injection B.N.F.	Sodium aminosalicylate and isoniazid cachets
Potassium gluconate	Sodium aminosalicylate and isoniazid granules, B.N.F.
Potassium hydroxyquinoline sulphate	Sodium chloride and dextrose injection, B.P.
Prednisolone with neomycin hydrochloride and Surfen eye ointment	Sodium lactate injection, compound, B.P.
Prednisolone with phenylephrine hydrochloride and naphazoline nitrate nasal spray	Sodium lactate injection, B.N.F.
Prednisolone and its salts and esters, alone or in combination with other pharmaceutical requirements as	Sodium potassium tartrate
	Sodium sulphate, anhydrous
	Sodium sulphite
	Solution for eye drops, B.P.C.
	Sorbitan derivatives
	Stanolone
	Stilboestrol dipropionate
	Streptomycin mixture for infants, B.P.
	Succinylsulphathiazole
	Succinylsulphathiazole mixture for infants, B.P.C.

Sulkowich's reagent  
Sulphadimethoxine  
Sulphamethoxazole  
Sulphamethoxydiazine  
Sulphamethoxypyridazine and  
derivatives  
Sulphapyridine sodium  
Sulphathiazole  
Sulphuric acid, dilute, B.P.C.

Tetrachloroethylene  
Tetracycline eye drops  
Tetracycline with procaine injection  
Tetrahydrozoline hydrochloride  
nasal preparations  
Thiabendazole tablets  
Thiambutosine  
Thiocarlide  
Thiopropazine mesylate  
Thiothixene tablets 30 mg  
Triamcinolone acetonide eye  
ointment

Triamcinolone acetonide with  
neomycin sulphate and gramicidin  
eye ointment  
Trichlormethiazide  
Trichloroethylene vitellae  
Trifluperidol hydrochloride injection  
and tablets  
Trisulphonamide mixture for infants,  
B.N.F. 1960  
Troloxidone

Vitamin D solution concentrated,  
B.P.C.  
Vitamin A and D solution,  
concentrated, B.P.C.  
Vitamins capsules, B.P.C.

Zinc sulphate and zinc chloride  
mouthwash, B.P.C.