



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

9 June 1982.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 212

To Medical and Dental Practitioners

(Copy to Proprietors of Retail Pharmacies)

WAIRARAPA PILOT STUDY

Following continued opposition to this scheme by professional organisations, as explained in Clinical Services Letter No. 209, a decision has now been made that the scheme should be abandoned. Accordingly, medical practitioners in the Wairarapa area have been separately notified that they will be required to endorse extended supply prescriptions in the normal manner as from 1 July. The normal system of monthly dispensing will also operate from that date, unless the prescriber indicates otherwise.

Antibiotic Supply

As, however, there was no opposition to the 4-day supply of antibiotics which was part of the Wairarapa pilot study, advance notice is given that this aspect will be implemented nationally as from 1 August. Further detail will be supplied in a later Clinical Services Letter. To avoid confusion, this provision will continue to apply in the Wairarapa after 30 June.

Extended Supply Endorsements

The Department of Health continues to be anxious to eliminate the requirement for these endorsements and regrets that the Wairarapa scheme has had to be abandoned.

The financial implications of removing the necessity for these endorsements has previously been shown to be a major aspect. Permission has, nevertheless, been gained to operate a further trial in another district involving the elimination of the requirement for extended supply endorsements except for some antibiotic treatments. In this trial, the normal monthly period of dispensing will continue to apply.

Accordingly, all practitioners in the Dunedin Health District, as from 1 July 1982, will no longer be required to use extended supply endorsements except for antibiotics. Therapy may be prescribed for any period up to 3 months but unless the prescription is otherwise endorsed, dispensing will be on a monthly basis. Details of this trial will be mailed to all involved medical practitioners and pharmacists individually.

The requirement for extended supply endorsements will continue as normal in all other districts and will continue to be monitored.

AMESEC AND AMIPHENE

These preparations will be deleted from the Drug Tariff from 1 December 1982.

These particular combinations are considered to be ineffective and outdated. The administration of a barbiturate to an asthmatic is also considered to be undesirable. The Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee supports their removal from the Drug Tariff.

COST/EFFICACY REVIEW OF THERAPEUTIC GROUPS

The antidepressant group of medicines will be reviewed by the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee when it meets in August. Any comments received before the meeting will be referred to the committee.

MILK SUBSTITUTES FOR INFANTS

Following the advice of some paediatricians and nutritional experts and on the recommendation of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee, approvals for free supplies of milk substitutes for infants under 2 years of age, who require them on medical grounds, are now restricted to Isomil, Prosobee, Glucose Nutramigen, and Pregestimil only. Normally, free supplies are not approved for children over 2 years of age.

Applications should include the patient's name, date of birth, brief clinical details, and the name of the recommending appropriate specialist.

PRACTICE NURSE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Practitioners are again reminded that the services of the practice nurse for which subsidy is payable are limited to professional duties.

It is not possible to correctly claim a full 40-hour subsidy if no receptionist is employed. In these circumstances the maximum subsidy to be claimed should be for no more than 20 hours and in many cases should be for less. The appropriate number of hours in each case should be discussed with the medical officer of health.

If a new nurse is to be employed her suitability for subsidisation should be checked with the medical officer of health before she commences duties. Payment of subsidy will not automatically be backdated to the date of commencement of work when no approval had previously been sought.

Payment of subsidy could also be refused by the medical officer of health if the accommodation provided is considered unsatisfactory, particularly if the space is insufficient to enable the nurse to carry out adequately her professional responsibilities.

BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY

At a meeting of all involved medical and pharmaceutical organisations called to discuss the provision of drug information in New Zealand, it was recommended that all practitioners should have access to a copy of the *British National Formulary*.

The third edition of the *British National Formulary* is expected during the month of June and may be ordered from the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, P.O. Box 9249, Wellington.

The price is \$12, cash with order.

Free copies will be supplied by the Department of Health to appropriate groups of medical, dental, and pharmacy students only.

MIANSERIN (TOLVON)

This tetracyclic antidepressant has been marketed in New Zealand since 1980.

Since 1976 in the United Kingdom there have been 15 reports of white blood cell depression, including 3 in which the red cell series was also involved, and all suspected to be related to mianserin. Three cases were fatal.

In Australia, 8 cases of neutropenia/agranulocytosis have been reported.

In 1982 3 cases of agranulocytosis occurred in New Zealand.

LIST OF SPECIALISTS RECOGNISED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE DRUG TARIFF AND HEALTH BENEFITS ONLY—APRIL 1982

The following list of recognised specialists is a consolidation of all approvals notified since the preparation of the list issued on 26 January 1982 and of the names inadvertently left off that list.

The people listed below are recognised as specialists for the purposes of the Drug Tariff. The asterisk (*) denotes those specialists who are entitled to claim the specialist benefit.

- *Aitheson, Gary Edward, PSYC
- *Apthorp, John, IM
- *Asher, Monica Innes, PAED
- Audeau, Fuad Michael, IM
- Avery, Stuart Francis, IM
- *Awunor-Renner, Charles, IM
- *Bates, Tom, S/GEN
- *Benny, Peter Scott, O/G
- *Bowes, Edgar Richard, OPH
- *Brown, Caroline Janet, CM
- Bycroft, Murray John, IM
- *Caughey, John Egerton, IM
- *Chacko, Margaret Helen, AN
- *Chapman, Cyril James, IM
- *Cliff, Graham Stephen, PSYC
- *Cotter, Sonia Maureen, PSYC
- *Craw, Susan Mary, RAD/D
- Devinish, Celia Jane, O/G
- *Dickson, Arabel Alice, AN
- *Doherty, Brian Harrison, CM
- *Doig, John Roger, O/G
- *Dower, John Charles, PAED

- *Downward, George, AN
- *du Fresne, Stephanie, PSYC
- *Elmes, Roger John Robert, RAD/D
- *Farnell, Alan, AN
- *Farrell, Alan Peter, PAED
- *Fiddes, Thomas Mackenzie, O/G
- Fisher, Robert Burton, PSYC
- *Fosbender, Murray Raymond, S/OR
- *Fox, Kenneth Charles, PSYC
- *Fraser, Robert Donald, P/G
- *Fry, Darryl Lindsay, IM
- *Geddis, David Christopher, PAED
- *Goldwater, Paul Nathan, PATH
- *Grant, Allan Craig, AN
- *Hadden, Wendy Elizabeth, RAD/D
- Heinz, Colin Angus, AN
- *Henley, Wilton Ernest, IM
- *Hift, Edgar Hans-Josef, S/GEN
- *Hill, Kevin William, O/G
- *Hocken, Anthony Gifford, IM
- *Hutchison, Charles Paul Telford, O/G
- *Innes, David Barclay, S/GEN
- *Ismail, Hazra, CM
- *Johns, Stephen Leonard, O/G
- *Jones, David, AN
- *Jones, David Trevor, IM
- *Kempthorne, Christopher John, AN
- *Lines, David Robin, PAED
- *Long, Geoffrey Thomas, AN
- Luey, Kevin, IM
- *Maar, Sirjo Aino, IM
- *MacCormick, Donald Evan Murray, S/GEN
- McCusker, Elizabeth Anne, IM
- Mackay, Richard John, PAED
- *Mackintosh, Andrew Ronald, O/G
- *Mackintosh, Heather Thomasina, OPH
- *McLachlan, David Gilmour, PSYC
- *McLeod, John William, VD
- *Marshall, Norman Graeme, AN
- *Mercer, Wilbur Harry, O/G
- *Morrison, Philip Stephen, PAED
- *Nicholson, Margaret Faith, PSYC
- *Nissanga, Sumanaweera, RAD/T
- Purdie, Desmond Alexander, PSYC
- *Ramirez, Andrea Mary, IM
- *Reid, John Roy, CM
- *Roberts, Allan John, AN
- *Senevirathne Banda, Maduwegedara Jayasundara Mudiyansele, AN
- *Skinner, Bruce Arthur John, IM
- *Stephenson, Clive Bryan Stanley, S/GEN

*Straton, David, PSYC
*Talbot, Kenneth James, OPH
*Tan, Bee Lay, RAD/D
*Thacker, Marise Anne, AN
*Turbott, Garth John, PSYC
*Venning, Christopher Duckenfield, O/G
Waterworth, Rodney Falcon, IM
*White, Albert Edward, PATH
Whiteside, Edwin Andrew, IM
*Willoughby, Ernest Walter, IM
*Wilson, Rowland Paterson, OPH
*Woolner, David Frank, AN



J. S. Phillips
(Director)



G. R. Boyd
(Deputy Director)

Division of Clinical Services.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Vacancy—Tolaga Bay Special Area

Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners for the position of Medical Officer, Tolaga Bay Special Area.

The practice is situated on the east coast of the North Island, some 35 miles from Gisborne. There is a modern district high school with a primary department. A rent-free furnished house and a fully equipped surgery is provided. Salary is fixed on the medical officers' special scale up to a maximum of scale 3, depending on experience.

The successful applicant will not be required to take up the appointment until 1 August 1982.

Further details and conditions of appointment can be obtained from:

The Director,
Division of Clinical Services,
Department of Health,
P.O. Box 5013,
Wellington.