

26 March 1962.

## CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 24

### TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Doctor,

#### OVERSEAS VISITORS

Health benefits are available at the cost of the Social Security Fund to persons who are ordinarily resident in New Zealand, visitors from Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with the exception of seamen), and anyone else who comes to New Zealand with the intention of remaining for at least two years.

A child under 16 years of age is deemed to be a member of the family of whoever is responsible, for the time being, for his care and control. A New Zealand resident would therefore be entitled to health benefits for any child from overseas who is under his guardianship in New Zealand.

Doctors attending a patient not entitled to health benefits should obtain payment for the full fee from the patient. If they practise under the refund system the receipt should be marked in some way to show that it does not entitle the patient to a Social Security refund.

#### GRISEOFULVIN (GRISOVIN, FULCIN)

Griseofulvin is effective only in the treatment of certain fungus infections. Before commencing treatment with a costly preparation of this nature full laboratory investigations are essential.

Psoriasis and monilial infections of the nails often look extremely like fungus infections even to a practitioner familiar with these disorders.

#### STRENGTH OF PREPARATIONS

Delays in dispensing prescriptions for some of the newer drugs are liable to occur if the strength required is not stated. Many new drugs are marketed in various strengths, e.g., Tofranil, Melleril, and Stelazine.

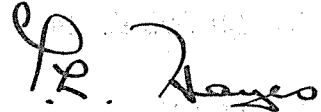
## PRESCRIBING BY OFFICIAL NAME

As there are likely to be shortages of certain proprietary brands during the coming months, delays in dispensing and a good deal of trouble to all concerned might be avoided if doctors prescribed, whenever possible, by official names. This is, of course, a habit to be encouraged at all times; although we are not unaware of the difficulties.

Yours faithfully,



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Director,



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Division of Clinical Services.