

17 October 1962.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 30

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

AMENDMENT TO THE DRUG TARIFF

A copy of the latest Drug Tariff amendment, which becomes effective on 1 November, is enclosed. The names of most of the drugs newly added to the list will be found on the last page.

Polymyxin will be available only when ordered for use by injection but proprietary topical preparations containing polymyxin still remain a charge or part charge. The maximum strength of ascorbic acid tablets which may be ordered as a charge on the Fund is 100 mg.

Trifluoperazine (Stelazine) and Fluphenazine (Anatensol) will be available through chemists. Amitriptyline (Laroxyl, Tryptanol) and Ethosuximide (Zarontin), available through hospital dispensaries, will no longer require the recommendation of a specialist.

ELKOSIN AND GANTRISIN: EXTRA CHARGE TO THE PATIENT

The cost of oral preparations of Elkosin and Gantrisin is considerably higher than that of other sulphonamides. (See Notes on Prescription Costs No. 14, 26 March.) The approximate daily cost of treatment with either of these drugs is about double the cost of treatment with sulphadimidine. From 1 November prescriptions for Elkosin or Gantrisin will be subject to an extra charge payable by the patient.

CONTINUATION TREATMENT WITH DRUGS ORDERED BY SPECIALISTS

A general practitioner may issue prescriptions for the continuation of treatment with drugs which may be ordered in the first instance only by specialists (e.g., psychiatrists, ophthalmologists). Prescriptions should be endorsed "On recommendation of Dr". Some will still need to be dispensed by the hospital, while others may be dispensed by a chemist, depending on what is laid down in the Drug Tariff (availability column, Part II of the Schedule).

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COMBINATION TABLETS OF PROGESTOGENS AND OESTROGENS

Tablets of nor-ethisterone acetate with ethinyloestradiol and tablets of norethynodrel with ethinyloestradiol 3-methyl ether will be available from hospital dispensaries for the treatment of gynaecological conditions such as endometriosis and functional uterine bleeding. It is not permissible in any circumstances to order these preparations for contraceptive purposes at the cost of the Fund.

TETRACYCLINE PREPARATIONS FOR TOPICAL USE

Chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline, and tetracycline for topical use may be prescribed at the cost of the Fund when dispensed extemporaneously by the chemist. The cost to the Fund of tetracycline ointment 3 per cent is approximately 8s. 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz tube.

VIULES

Certain of these are not a full charge on the Fund. Surcharges are payable for the following: adrenaline tartrate, Cobastab, hyoscine hydrobromide, mersalyl, morphine sulphate gr. $\frac{1}{6}$, gr. $\frac{1}{3}$, and gr. $\frac{1}{2}$, pethidine with hyoscine hydrobromide and Sol-Viules.

Ordinary ampoules of these drugs are not subject to any direct charge to the patient.

"ONE TUBE" OR "ONE PACK"

Please note that the above terms used in the availability column in the Schedule to the Drug Tariff mean that on each occasion of dispensing one tube or one pack only may be supplied at the cost of the Fund. Some may be liable to a part-charge. The above restriction also applies to Medical Practitioner's Supply Orders.

OINTMENT, TUBES, AND DROPPER BOTTLES

To encourage economy in the use of ointments, creams, etc., chemists have been requested to dispense these preparations in tubes. This may not always be possible because of temporary shortages of tubes. Dropper bottles are likewise to be used when eye drops are ordered.

Yours faithfully,

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