

12 July 1965.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 53

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

**DRUG TARIFF 1964, AMENDMENT No. 2: EFFECTIVE
1 AUGUST 1965**

Two items of special interest in this amendment concern *corticosteroids* and *oral contraceptives*. Particulars are given below.

Additions and Deletions will be found on the last page of the amendment. Most of the additions, with their proprietary names, are listed. They also include:

Glucose-oxidase test strips (Clinistix, Tes-Tape).

Alterations

(a) Available through chemists:

Bethanidine sulphate (Esbatal).
Hydrocortisone nasal preparations (*extemporaneously prepared*).
Nortriptyline (Allegron, Aventyl).
Oxyphenbutazone (Tanderil).
Sulthiame (Ospolot).
Triamcinolone acetonide injection (Kenacort-A).

(b) Available through hospital board dispensaries without specialist approval:

Griseofulvin (Fulcin Forte, Grisovin-FP).

(c) Available from hospital board dispensaries when recommended by a specialist:

Corticosteroids.

Approval by a Special Medical Committee is no longer required. Information cards will be handed to patients by the staff of hospital dispensaries when initial supplies of corticosteroids are issued.

Supplies of corticosteroids cannot be authorised through the Division of Clinical Services.

(d) *Oral Contraceptives*—Progestational steroids which inhibit ovulation and are effective as oral contraceptives also have a place in treatment. When employed for therapeutic purposes they are available as a pharmaceutical benefit. Drugs intended for oral contraception are not available as a charge on public funds in any circumstances.

P.T.O.

Some individuals (on their own initiative) have been taking prescriptions for oral contraceptives to hospitals in order to obtain free supplies to which they are not entitled. For this reason, an endorsement, "Approved condition", in the doctor's own handwriting is required for prescriptions in this category where the drug is intended for treatment.

This applies to:

Ethinylloestradiol with megestrol acetate (Ovisec, Volidan).
Ethinodiol diacetate with mestranol (Metrulen, Metrulen-M, Ovulen).
Lynestrenol with methoxyethinylloestradiol (Lyndiol, Noracyclin).
Medroxyprogesterone acetate (Provera).
Mestranol with chlormadinone acetate (Sequens).
Norethisterone (Primolut-N).
Norethisterone acetate (Norlutin-A).
Norethisterone acetate with ethinylloestradiol (Anovlar 21, Gynovlar 21, Norlestrin).
Norethynodrel and mestranol (Conovid, Conovid-E, Enavid, Previson).

PHENYLBUTAZONE: PART CHARGE ON CERTAIN BRANDS

From 1 August 1965 phenylbutazone prescribed by the official name will be supplied free of charge to the patient. If, however, this drug is prescribed under the trade names Butazolidin or D.P. Leo, there may be a part charge.

Yours faithfully,

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