

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
P.O. BOX 5013,
WELLINGTON.

15 May 1967.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 70

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (Copy for information to chemists)

Dear Doctor,

TETRACYCLINES

Imperacin (I.C.I.) brand of oxytetracycline capsules and tablets, and Tetralysal (Carlo Erba) brand of lymecycline (tetracycline lysine) capsules, are both available at a reduced price. Other brands of both these drugs are likely to be marketed shortly.

The Department of Health accepts the view that there are certain differences between the various members of the tetracycline group, but these are not considered to be sufficient to justify differences in the amounts paid for them from public funds. For years, the principal members of the group have been marketed at the same price. This was an indication that the drug industry regarded them as of similar commercial value.

From 1 June payment to chemists for all tetracyclines (250 mg or equivalent) will be limited to 81s. 3d. per 100 retail. A part charge to the patient will apply on capsules and tablets of the above strength (or equivalent) of chlortetracycline, demethylchlortetracycline, tetracycline, and one brand of oxytetracycline. Capsules and tablets containing adjuncts such as nystatin will also carry a part charge. Imperacin and Tetralysal will not be subject to any part charge.

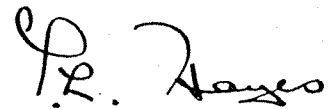
The Department does not accept the view that the use of antifungal agents in conjunction with tetracyclines is necessary as a routine. (See Prescribers' Journal, U.K., December 1966.) In exceptional cases, where it is considered desirable, nystatin tablets should be prescribed separately.

An excellent review of the tetracyclines appeared in the February 1966 issue of *New Ethicals*. This includes a section on lymecycline which is also dealt with at some length in *New Ethicals*, June 1965.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.