

15 June 1967.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER No. 71

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS:

Dear Doctor,

MATERNITY BENEFITS: CONSULTATION FEES

The Medical Services Advisory Committee recently considered several claims for multiple consultations in relation to Maternity Benefits. From the number and frequency of services claimed it seemed possible that the attendances of consultants were for continuing supervision of patients rather than for "consultations" in the accepted sense of the word.

The Committee considered that a definition of "consultation" in relation to Maternity Benefits would be helpful. The Medical Association of New Zealand with the concurrence of the O. & G. Society has approved the following definition:

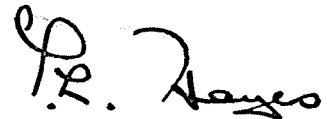
"Consultation means that an invitation was made to another colleague, who conducted an examination, and that a meeting was held to discuss the case or a report was supplied. Other types of supervision cannot be regarded as consultations."

Future maternity claims for consultation fees will be considered in the light of this wording and, if thought necessary, confirmation will be sought from the claimant that the essential requirements of a consultation have been fulfilled.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.