

12 February 1968.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 77

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(Copy for information to chemists. Please note item about part charges.)

Dear Doctor,

STEROID TREATMENT CARDS

In November 1967 a meeting of a subcommittee of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee was held to review the prescribing of corticosteroids since these drugs were derestricted on 1 December 1966.

The committee recommended that certain studies and inquiries be carried out. You will be informed of the results in due course.

Members of the committee expressed concern that many patients are not being issued with steroid treatment cards, and that some patients are not aware of the precautions which are necessary in steroid treatment. The Department has been asked to draw your attention to the availability of these cards and the advantages of using them. Stocks may be obtained from your local Medical Officer of Health.

POSSIBLE PART CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 1968

Unless suitable price reductions are forthcoming, the preparations listed below will carry a part charge to the patient from 1 April 1968. Notification is given at this stage as repeat supplies of extended supply prescriptions for these preparations could possibly be subject to a part charge. Further details will be supplied later.

- (a) Some brands of capsules and tablets of tetracyclines of 250 mg or "double" strength (or equivalent).
- (b) Hypnotics—
 - Methypyrone 200 mg and 300 mg (Noludar).
 - Triclofos sodium (Tricloryl).
- (c) Progestogens—
 - Metrulen, Provera, Norlutin-A, Norlestrin.
- (d) Neutradonna tablets.

P.T.O.

- (e) Meprobamate tablets 400 mg.
- (f) Pimafucin ointment.
- (g) Mysoline oral suspension, 250 mg per 5 ml.
- (h) Sulphamezathine oral suspension, 500 mg per 5 ml.

CHYMOTRYPSIN INJECTION

From 1 April 1968 chymotrypsin injection will be available only from a hospital board on the recommendation of a specialist.


HALQUINOL TABLETS

Halquinol tablets (Quixalin) are now a charge under the Drug Tariff. Payment will not be made for the suspension.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.