

15 March 1968.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 78

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(Copy for information to chemists)

Dear Doctor

DRUG TARIFF 1967, AMENDMENT NO. 2: EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 1968

Additions

Most additions with their proprietary names are listed on the last page of the amendment. Methionine has also been added.

Alterations

(a) To be available from chemists:

Allopurinol (Zyloprim); Chlorthalidone (Hygroton); Clorexolone (Nefrolan); Ethacrynic acid (Edecrin); Frusemide (Lasix); Frusemide with reserpine (Terbolan); Polythiazide (Nephрил); Triamterene (Dytac).

(b) Chymotrypsin injection will be available only from a hospital board on the recommendation of a specialist.

(c) From 1 April payment will be made for seven days' treatment, plus a repeat for seven days' treatment if necessary, for preparations to which the restriction "penicillin restriction" applies. Payment will continue to be made for extended supplies where necessary.

(d) The following anaesthetic drugs will be available on the medical practitioners supply order of any practitioner:

Ether, anaesthetic; Ethyl chloride; Methohexitone sodium injection (Brietal Sodium); Propanidid (Epontol); Thiopentone sodium injection (Intraval Sodium, Pentothal Sodium); Trichloroethylene.

PAYMENT FOR ANAESTHETIC GASES

The Minister of Health has approved a flat rate payment of \$0.60 per anaesthetic for a patient who is not an inpatient of a public hospital. This payment will apply only where nitrous oxide or oxygen is used, and will be effective from 1 April 1968. Medical practitioners should claim on form G.M.S. 2 using the code letter "A", or submit a list of names, together with addresses and dates of administration. The amount must be deducted from the patient's account.

PART CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 1968

In addition to those preparations listed in the Explanatory Note to the Drug Tariff Amendment, the following preparations will carry a part charge from 1 April 1968:

Conovid; Conovid-E; Meprobamate tablets 400 mg; Neutradonna tablets; Noludar 200 mg and 300 mg; Norlestrin; Norlutin-A; Pimafucin ointment; Provera; Tricloryl.

As a result of devaluation, prices for several drugs will be increased in the next few months. Where there is more than one brand of a drug, payment by the Department will continue to be based on the lowest priced brand available. This will mean that certain preparations may carry small part charges to the patient for short periods. The simplest way to avoid such charges is to prescribe by official name.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS

All approvals under section 99 of the Social Security Act for the supply of the items listed below as a charge against the Department are cancelled from 1 April 1968:

Betnovate scalp lotion; Garamycin ointment and cream; Mandrax; Mogadon; Nubarene; Propaderm-A; Ultralan.

(These have been included in the Drug Tariff as a part charge.)

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.