

22 April 1968.

**CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 79**

**TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**

Dear Doctor,

**MATERNITY BENEFIT CLAIM FORM (MAT. B.5)**

To overcome the difficulty experienced by doctors in obtaining satisfactory patients' certificates, the new print of form Mat. B.5 allows for the completion of the patient's certificate prior to the post-natal examination. The claim will be accepted if it is signed and dated by the patient towards the end of the lying-in period. The co-operation of doctors is requested to ensure that claims are properly completed by patients.

**SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS (PHARMACEUTICAL)**

If a patient requiring a drug which is not in the Drug Tariff cannot reasonably be expected to pay for it, application may be made by the practitioner to the Director of this Division for approval of a special supply. This provision normally applies to drugs for the treatment of chronic conditions and authority is not given retrospectively. Anti-obesity preparations and special foods cannot be authorised in this way.

Care should be taken to supply the following information:

- (a) The name of the drug and dosage.
- (b) Brief clinical details, and
- (c) A statement to the effect that the patient would find it a hardship to pay for the drug.

Please use this service with discretion so that it may continue as at present without curtailment or petty restrictions.

Drugs authorised as Supplementary Benefits are normally issued only through hospital board dispensaries.

P.T.O.

### PREGNANCY TESTS

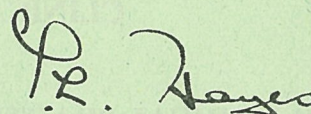
The Drug Tariff specifically excludes payment for pregnancy tests. This would include combinations of progestogens and oestrogens used for this purpose.

Incidentally, these combinations are not, in fact, considered to be satisfactory. The new hormonal tests are cheap and reliable.

Yours faithfully,



(A. W. S. Thompson)  
Director,



(T. L. Hayes)  
Assistant Director,

Division of Clinical Services.

### Vacancies in General Practice

*Alexandra*, Central Otago, urgently requires another doctor. No purchase or goodwill required. Houses to lease or purchase available, finance beyond normal lending limits can be arranged. This rapidly growing town, centre of a prosperous fruit and sheep farming area, has a splendid climate (average rainfall 12 inches), excellent high school, swimming pool, new 18-hole golf course, fishing, ice skating within 3 miles. Public hospital and maternity annexe 6 miles. Two present doctors are seriously overworked. Inquiries: Mrs V. M. Boyd, Box 86, Alexandra.

*Methven*, a pleasant country town with a district population of 2,500, offers a vacancy for a sole practitioner. Maternity hospital (six beds) averages 50 patients a year. District high school. Chemist. House and surgery available to rent or purchase. Excellent prospects. Inquiries: County Clerk, Ashburton County Council, P.O. Box 43, Ashburton.