

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

20 March 1970.

## **CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 97**

### **TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**

Dear Doctor,

#### **HIGHER RATE OF G.M.S. BENEFIT: SICKNESS AND SHORT TERM BENEFICIARIES**

The higher G.M.S. benefit of \$1.50 is payable in respect of patients (and their dependants) who have been granted a short term monetary benefit, principally the Sickness Benefit. A difficulty arises in that some time elapses between the initial attendance for the medical certificate in support of the benefit application and a decision as to whether it will be granted or declined. As will be appreciated, the Social Security Department has to consider financial and related circumstances in making a decision.

Eligibility Certificates SS 284 are issued by the Social Security Department in the case of approved benefits. While the certificate shows an expiry date it does not indicate the date from which the benefit is payable and this leaves the operative date for the higher G.M.S. benefit indeterminate.

It has now been decided that the eligible period for the \$1.50 medical benefit in these cases will be *three (3) months prior to the expiry date on the Eligibility Certificate—SS 284*. Thus a beneficiary whose certificate bears the expiry date 15 April 1970, will be entitled to the higher benefit as from 15 January 1970.

The decision will apply to the holders of all current Eligibility Certificates SS 284.

#### **VACANCIES IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

##### **CHEVIOT, NORTH CANTERBURY**

The departure of the present sole doctor at Cheviot before mid-1970, will create a vacancy. This practice, which serves a farming district, has good prospects and rental accommodation is available. On the main highway, Cheviot is 72 miles north of Christchurch.

Inquiries: Dr S. R. Hunt, Cheviot or  
The County Clerk, Cheviot County Council,  
P.O. Box 22,  
Cheviot.



## NIGHTCAPS, SOUTHLAND

The practice population is slightly in excess of 2,000 with the main concentrations at Ohai, a coal mining township, and Nightcaps. Otherwise, the practice serves a farming area. House and surgery are available at a nominal rental. Nightcaps is 40 miles north-west of Invercargill.

Inquiries: Mr Jas Peters,  
160 Birchwood Road,  
Ohai.

Yours faithfully,

*A. W. S. Thompson*

(A. W. S. Thompson)  
Director, Division of Clinical Services.