

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY 1957**

Summary. This memorandum announces the issue of the British National Formulary and explains certain differences between the new Formulary and that which it replaces.

1. Initial supplies of the British National Formulary are being forwarded for the use of the medical and pharmaceutical staff of the hospitals of each Hospital Board and Committee. This edition will, with effect from 1st November, 1957, replace for the purposes of the National Health Service the National Formulary, 1955 (sent to Boards and Committees with H.M. (55) 36) and the 1st Amendment (1956) (issued with a circular letter dated 17th February, 1956). This edition of the Formulary is being issued to all general medical practitioners in the National Health Service. Additional copies will be made available on request.

2. Hospital authorities are reminded that the Ministry do not supply copies of the Alternative Edition of the British National Formulary based on a pharmacological classification. Copies of the Alternative Edition may be purchased direct from the publishers—the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, and the Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

3. Attention is drawn to the following points:—

- (i) *Additions and Deletions.* Additions to the Formulary and monographs which were included in the National Formulary, 1955, but which are not included in the British National Formulary, 1957, are listed on pages 8 to 10. A formula for a non-greasy Calamine Cream is now included and should be distinguished from Compound Calamine Cream, B.P.C., which is not included in the new Formulary.
- (ii) *Amendments to Composition.* Preparations whose composition has been significantly amended are listed on page 10. Of particular note is the new formula for Codeine Linctus containing a higher proportion of codeine phosphate (1/5 gr. in 60 m.). This formula is also to be supplied against prescriptions for Strong Codeine Linctus of the previous formulary which is not included in the British National Formulary. Several commonly prescribed mixtures are also slightly modified, e.g. in five mixtures the vehicle is changed from water to chloroform water.
- (iii) *Suitable Containers.* Where it is essential for tablets, capsules, etc. to be dispensed in airtight containers, or in containers which prevent the access of moisture, this is stated in the monograph. Eight tablets, most of which are frequently prescribed (e.g. Soluble Aspirin Tablets), one capsule and one solution-tablet are affected by this new requirement.

To: Regional Hospital Boards,
Boards of Governors,
Hospital Management Committees.

- (iv) *Proprietary Preparations.* Preparations which are believed to be available only as single proprietary products are suitably indicated in the Formulary and in the list of proprietary preparations in the Appendix. Doctors are being asked to use the official title as far as possible where a preparation is available under several proprietary brand names, e.g., preparations of cortisone, hydrocortisone, etc., in order to avoid inconvenience and to save delay to the patient.
- (v) *Dental Practitioners' Formulary.* For the convenience of pharmacists the Appendix on pages 200 to 204 includes (1) monographs which are included in the Dental Practitioners' Formulary but not in the British National Formulary and (2) the list of drugs and preparations which may be prescribed by dentists under the General Dental Services Regulations.
- (vi) ***The British National Formulary, 1957, replaces all preceding National Formularies.***

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SAVILE ROW,
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26th September, 1957.

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