



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 3000

EPU

From the Secretary of State for ~~Social Services~~ Health

Andrew Turnbull Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

|| May 1989

Dear Andrew

WASTEFUL AND RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

- flap

Your letter of 8 May asked about the use of the examples annexed to my letter of 4 May.

The cases could be quoted publicly as examples of the inefficient use of resources that we need to tackle if the NHS is to give better services to patients and provide value for money. The White Paper proposals will lead to better management of the NHS and in particular will enable doctors to play a fuller and more responsible role in that management.

There is a risk, however, that a Minister quoting these examples could be asked to identify the individuals concerned. The examples should, therefore, be used with care so as not to identify individuals or, indeed, blacken the profession as a whole. In all cases, local managers have taken action to put things right.

A further point is that the GPs' contract has now been settled. We therefore advise against drawing attention to examples 9, 10 and 12 in my original letter since the issues have been covered in the contract. Finally, we have now learned that the case in question at example 11 may be investigated by the police. An alternative example is therefore attached.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of the Cabinet and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

Flora Goldhill

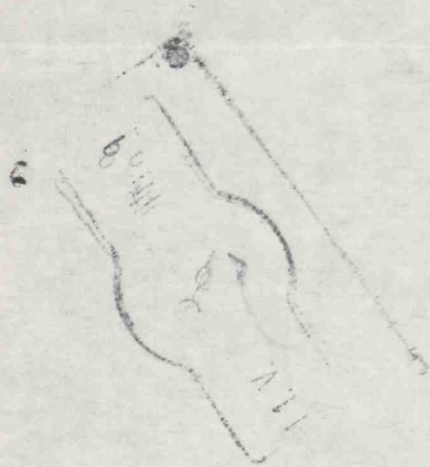
FLORA GOLDHILL
Private Secretary

GP PRESCRIBING

General Practitioners have prescribed such items as margarine, soft drinks, toothpaste, coffee whitener and soap powder. Many products of this type which have been prescribed in the past have now been added to the list of products which may not be prescribed at NHS expense. These include:

- Flora margarine
- Boots Orange drink
- Carnation Coffeemate
- Cadburys Coffee Compliment
- Badedas Bath Gelee
- Simple Hair Conditioner
- Farleys rusks

NHS : Eopen pr 21



DRAFT 3
2.00pm 10/5

AN OPEN LETTER TO EVERYONE WHO USES THE FAMILY DOCTOR SERVICE

There has been a great deal of talk about the new contract for Britain's 32,000 GPs that I agreed recently with doctors' representatives. Much of the attention has been on money. But what the contract is really about is developing a different and better family doctor service.

It is essential that you know what the changes will mean for you as a patient.

The new contract will encourage all GPs to develop a wider range of high quality services to attract and retain patients. The promotion of health and the active prevention of disease will become a central part of the service you receive from your doctor.

The main changes you can expect to see are as follows:

- * more regular assessment of the development of young children by their doctor
- * doctors doing even more to protect the public from disease by immunising children and by screening for cervical cancer
- * much more in the way of health promotion clinics and regular health check-ups for all patients
- * night visits being made more often by patients' own doctors or by a doctor they know
- * GPs doing even more to maintain the health of elderly patients and to keep in regular contact with them
- * more minor surgery in the convenience of the doctor's own premises
- * improved services in deprived areas
- * doctors being more available at times convenient to patients

Patient choice will be the all important factor in our efforts to make the family doctor service even better.

GPs will produce practice leaflets and they will be allowed to advertise so you will be fully informed about the services available. And we also intend to make it much easier for you to choose and change your GP.

Of course many GPs already run very good practices. Under the new arrangements they will be better rewarded. Others may be encouraged to develop their services to reflect the needs and preferences of patients.

I believe the new contract will be a vital step in our moves to improve the Health Service. It will help to give patients of all ages an even better quality of care.

Kenneth Clarke

cc Mr. Dancy
Mr. Kirk
Mr. Keswick
Miss Suggs
Mr. Rayner
Dr. Abrams
Mr. Shaw
Dr. Crett
Mr. Sharpe.
Miss Christopheron.

Revised draft of proposed advert which is now addressed to patients and not to GPs.

AMM. 1/10/62