Circular

H&CS HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Circular No:	48/93	Contact:	Regional Office
Date:	18 October 1993	Distribution:	Public Hospitals
Subject:	Pharmaceutical Safety Net Scheme		

Purpose

The purpose of this circular is to advise hospitals of changes to the Joint Safety Net Scheme for general (non card holder) patients under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing Local Government and Community Services has recently advised of changes to the Joint Safety Net Scheme for general (non card holder) patients which were made in the context of the 1993/94 Federal Budget.

The threshold for the safety net will be increased to $400 and the current second tier of the safety net under which prescriptions are supplied without a patient co-payment will be removed. This will mean that once people have recorded $400 on their Prescription Record Form (based on co-payment of $13.00), a $2.60 (indexed) co-payment will apply to each prescription dispensed under the safety net to general patients, until the end of the calender year. These changes will be implemented from 1 January 1994, the start of the new safety net year. The safety net threshold will not be indexed until 1 January 1995.

Hospitals are reminded that, in the context of the Commonwealth/State agreement relating to Safety Net arrangements, they are responsible for providing information and advice to patients regarding the Safety Net Scheme. Information provided by the Health Insurance Commission for the general information of patients at public hospitals should be displayed and provided for patients' convenience.

S J DUCKETT
DIRECTOR
ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES0

555 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. Tel: (03) 616 7777. Fax: (03) 616 8329.