



For Information Contact:

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Pharmacy Information

Information for Pharmacists

(http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/pharmacist/pharmacist_info.htm)

- CDC has issued recommendations for clinicians on the use of antiviral medications (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>) in the treatment and prevention of influenza. Oseltamivir ([Tamiflu](#)) and zanamivir ([Relenza](#)) are the two recommended influenza antiviral drugs at this time.

CDC discussions with the antiviral supply chain indicate that supplies of adult formulation (75 mg) oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) are meeting current demand for this product. However, the FDA and [Roche](#) have acknowledged that commercial and stockpiled supplies of Tamiflu oral suspension are limited.

- Pharmacies should be aware of the importance of providing patients with these influenza medications as quickly as possible when they are prescribed. Both Tamiflu and Relenza work best when administered within 48 hours of onset of symptoms. Having product at the pharmacy store level, including doses of oseltamivir and zanamivir and supplies to compound Tamiflu if necessary, will be critical to ensuring that patients needing treatment receive it as quickly as possible.
- Alternatives to Tamiflu oral suspension for pediatric patients are described by the FDA on their website (<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/ucm100228.htm>) reminding health care providers and pharmacists of the FDA approved instructions for the emergency compounding of an oral suspension from Tamiflu 75mg capsules

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/UCM147992.pdf>).

- Additional notes on Tamiflu oral suspension syringe and an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the use of Tamiflu (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/pdf/tamiflu-hcp.pdf>) in pediatric patients younger than 1 year of age are available at the CDC Pharmacists Information site (http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/pharmacist/pharmacist_info.htm).