



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

**2009 H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)
Oseltamivir Pediatric Treatment
September 28, 2009**

Dear Kentucky Clinician:

This letter is to provide updated clinician guidance for the pediatric prescription of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) for H1N1 influenza treatment. The Kentucky Department for Public Health has received reports of spot shortages of pre-packaged pediatric oseltamivir suspension and is predicting the situation to worsen. Fortunately, a supply of adult capsules is commercially available.

Clinicians are advised to prescribe this medication in mg (milligrams) rather than mL (milliliters) or tsp (teaspoons).

All pharmacists are able to compound suspensions on-site from available capsule supplies in case of a shortage of pre-packaged suspensions. Pharmacies do not have to be a compounding facility since this process is not a sterile procedure. Clinicians are also advised to write the following statement on prescriptions for suspensions: "May be substituted with compounded suspensions."

Thank you for your willingness to work with us to appropriately address this situation. Information can be found at KDPH's Health Alerts website: <http://healthalerts.ky.gov> and the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>.



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

**2009 H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)
Oseltamivir Pediatric Treatment
September 28, 2009**

KEY POINTS

Prescribe in “MG – MILLIGRAMS”

Use mg (milligrams) rather than mL (milliliters) or tsp (teaspoons).

Prescribe with “MAY SUBSTITUTE WITH COMPOUNDED SUSPENSION”

All pharmacists are able to compound from capsules on-site in case of suspension shortages.

Pediatric Treatment Dosages

| Age | Body Weight (kg) | Body Weight (lb) | Dose for 5 Days |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <3 months | not applicable | not applicable | 12 mg twice daily |
| 3-5 months | not applicable | not applicable | 20 mg twice daily |
| 6-11 months | not applicable | not applicable | 25 mg twice daily |
| 1-2 years | ≤15 | ≤33 | 30 mg twice daily |
| 3-5 years | >15 to 23 | >33 to 51 | 45 mg twice daily |
| 6-9 years | >23 to 40 | >51 to 88 | 60 mg twice daily |
| 10-12 years | >40 | >88 | 75 mg twice daily |
| 13-17 years | not applicable | not applicable | 75 mg twice daily |

Example: 3.5 year-old weighing 17kg

Rx
 OSELTAMIVIR SUSPENSION 45MG
 TWICE DAILY BY MOUTH x 5 DAYS
 MAY SUBSTITUTE WITH COMPOUNDED SUSPENSION

CDC Documents Available Online

- Oseltamivir Dosing for H1N1: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/pdf/tamiflu-hcp.pdf>
- Antiviral Dosing for H1N1: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/>
- Antiviral Prescribing for H1N1: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>