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## **TAMIFLU® ORAL SUSPENSION FAQ DOCUMENT**

### **October 8, 2009**

#### **Why is pediatric Tamiflu®, oral suspension being distributed?**

Tamiflu®, oral suspension is currently available in the commercial marketplace for primary use in the pediatric population. However based on current flu reporting and anti-viral utilization, there are indications that the commercial supply of pediatric Tamiflu®, oral suspension may fall short of demand. Therefore the HHS Secretary has approved the deployment of Tamiflu®, oral suspension from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

#### **What age population should pediatric Tamiflu®, oral suspension be dispensed to?**

The target population for Tamiflu®, oral suspension is infants and young children. In order to help avoid a shortage of the oral suspension, it is important that Tamiflu®, oral suspension be limited to use in infants and young children.

#### **When can hospitals expect to receive the initial shipment of the Tamiflu®, oral suspension?**

The Tamiflu®, oral suspension is expected to begin shipping out to hospitals via UPS on Thursday, October 8, 2009. It will typically take two (2) days for the hospitals to receive the shipment via UPS. Please note : Monday thru Friday UPS shipments only. There will be no Saturday shipments to hospitals.

#### **Who will receive the Tamiflu® shipment at the hospitals?**

The Tamiflu®, oral suspension will be shipped to the Director of the Pharmacy at each hospital

#### **How many cases of Tamiflu®, oral suspension will each ASPR HPP hospital receive ?**

Each Hospital in the HPP will receive 1 case (18 courses of treatment/ case) of Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension

#### **Is there an expiration date on this shipment of the Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension ?**

CDC has issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for this lot of Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension. The expiration dates on this shipment of Tamiflu are as follows :

- **November 30, 2005 expiration date has been extended to February 28, 2010.**
- **June 30, 2006 expiration date has been extended to August 31, 2010.**

**What algorithm distribution calculation was determined in the distribution of the pediatric Tamiflu®, oral suspension to Illinois Hospitals ?**

As noted above, all ASPR HPP hospitals will receive 1 case. The criteria used in determining which hospitals will receive a double allotment of Tamiflu®, oral suspension (2 cases with a total of 36 courses of treatment) is as follows :

- The top 20 hospitals listed on the COMPdata Report from IHA within Illinois with the highest pediatric (age 0-5 y/o) volume of E.D. visits; and
- The top 20 hospitals listed on the COMPdata Report from IHA within Illinois with the highest pediatric (age 0-5 y/o) volume of In-Patients

Please Note: Four regions did not have a hospital appear within these top 20 lists. In those regions, the hospital with the highest 0-5 y/o pediatric ED and inpatient volumes were selected.

The remainder of the Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension will go to the RHCC/POD hospitals to disseminate to non HPP and resupply HPP hospitals as needed (approximately 30 cases/RHCC).

**What recorded information and/or process should the POD hospitals follow in tracking the Tamiflu®, Oral suspension when a request for the Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension is received from another hospital ?**

The Department is requesting that the POD hospital track the lot number #, date and to whom you disseminated the Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension.

**What are the issues that have been identified when using the syringes packaged in the pediatric Tamiflu®, Oral Suspension?**

Below is the link to the Sept 25th CDC HAN update. Scroll down to the section titled "Note on Tamiflu® Oral Suspension Syringe" which describes the syringe issue. In some cases of Tamiflu®, oral suspension, the dosing syringe uses "mg" units of measure, while the dosing instructions indicate "mL" or "tsp". This can lead to confusion and dosing errors. Pharmacists and healthcare practitioners need to ensure that the units of measure on the dosing dispenser match the dosing instructions. When dispensing Tamiflu® oral suspension for children younger than 1 year of age, the oral dosing dispenser that is included in the product package should always be removed. Please review the information via the link below

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/HAN/092509.htm>

**Can Tamiflu®, oral suspension be administered to children younger than one (1) year of age?**

Tamiflu®, oral suspension is authorized for emergency use in children younger than 1 year of age under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) issued by FDA. For the EUA, see

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/pdf/tamiflu-hcp.pdf>

**Can hospitals charge a fee as they distribute the pediatric Tamiflu®, oral suspension?**

Hospitals cannot charge patients/parents, nor can they bill insurance carriers for the Tamiflu®, oral suspension that is being distributed through this SNS deployment.