

15 May 2009

**URGENT COMMUNICATION**

Chemist Contractors / Pharmacists on Duty  
Dispensing Doctor Practices

Dear Colleague,

**Access to Antivirals for Treatment of Cases of Swine Flu & Prophylaxis  
of Close Contacts With Effect From 15 May 2009**

(Follow up to Letter from Acting CMO & CPO of 14 May 2009)

You were previously advised that the stock of antiviral medicines which you received recently should be held securely as a contingency until its use is authorised by the Chief Medical Officer. **I am writing to confirm that the CMO has now authorised dispensing from this stock in response to HS21 prescriptions, but only when there is an authorisation code on the prescription.** This code will have been provided to the GP by a public health doctor or nurse at the Public Health Agency's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The authorisation code, which will be of an alphanumeric form, will be added to the prescription by the GP surgery and will appear on the left hand side of the form beneath the drug name and dose. This code does not need to be rechecked with the EOC. Antiviral stock should not be dispensed for treatment / prophylaxis without this authorisation code. This code must be added to the Patient Medication Record.

Authorised HS21 prescriptions for these products will incur no prescription charge to the patient. They should, however, be coded as normal, using the standard BSO (formerly CSA) drug code as follows to ensure payment of the appropriate dispensing fee.

Tamiflu (oseltamivir) capsules 30mg	(pack of 10)	2457
Tamiflu (oseltamivir) capsules 45mg	(pack of 10)	2689
Tamiflu (oseltamivir) capsules 75mg	(pack of 10)	3512
Relenza (zanamivir) 5mg	(pack of 20 blisters)	6367

The forms should be submitted to the BSO with your normal monthly bundle and should be kept at the front of your exempt batch.

There is also now a requirement to maintain a stock record with a running balance (similar to a CD record) for any antivirals which you supply. This is to enable regular notification to the Board for monitoring purposes. Details are attached.

The above arrangements for community pharmacies will also apply to dispensing doctor practices which are holding antiviral stocks.

Please note that supplies of paediatric suspension have not been provided at this stage to community pharmacies and so suspension should continue to be obtained using existing supply arrangements (hospital pharmacies and GP Out of Hours services)

Antivirals will continue to be made available through the existing mechanisms. This new arrangement adds an extra option and is intended to ease the supply of necessary medication, particularly during the working day. All general practitioners have been advised of these arrangements.

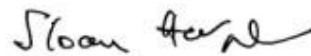
The Board will be in contact with you shortly to assess your pharmacy's capacity to hold an increased stock of antivirals.

Thank you very much for your continued co-operation.

Yours faithfully,



**Ms ANDREE MCCOLLUM**  
Health & Social Care Board



**DR SLOAN HARPER**  
Health & Social Care Board

Encs

## Antiviral Stock Recording, Reporting and Replenishment

Operating Procedure in Community Pharmacies / Dispensing Practices

### Antiviral stock levels

1. Each Community Pharmacy and Dispensing Doctor Practice should keep a daily record of numbers of packs of antiviral received & issued and a running balance in a similar way to Controlled Drugs records.
2. A separate stock record should be completed for each presentation ie Tamiflu 30mg, Tamiflu 45mg, Tamiflu 75mg and Relenza.
3. The Community Pharmacy and Dispensing Doctor Practice should store the stock records securely either electronically or, if paper, stored with the Controlled Drugs register. A sample *Form 1* is included and additional copies can be made to accommodate the full range of presentations.
4. If a Community Pharmacy or Dispensing Doctor Practice has issued any stock in response to an authorisation by a public health doctor or a HS21 prescription with an authorisation code, the community pharmacy or Dispensing Doctor Practice should fax a stock report on a daily basis to the Health and Social Care Board local office for your area. *Form 2* is included for daily reporting. (If there is no change in the running balance, there is no requirement to submit a daily report). This form may be copied for daily use or additional copies may be supplied if required.
5. The fax should be sent before 10am if possible. If there are any transmission difficulties, the Board should be contacted at the relevant office number.
6. If the information can be sent by e-mail, the Board office should be contacted to make arrangements to receive an e-mail version of the form and report by this means.
7. The daily antiviral stock reports will trigger the HSCB to place orders for additional antivirals according to approved stockholding levels.

### Contact Telephone Numbers and Fax Numbers for each Health and Social Care Board Local Office

	Contact Name(s)	Telephone No:	Fax No:
Eastern Locality	Andree McCollum Philip McErlean Mildred McStravick	028 9055 3794	028 9055 3622
Northern Locality	Dr Denis Morrison Wilma Montgomery	028 2531 1140	028 2531 1141
Southern Locality	Deirdre Quinn Angela Neilly Mairead Morgan	028 3741 4622	028 3741 4625
Western Locality	Joe Brogan Evelyn Curry Darren Long	028 7186 4316	028 7186 4335

**This procedure applies until further notice**



## Form 2

### Antiviral Daily Report to Board

Reporting Date	
Contractor number	

Presentation	Last Reported Balance	Number of packs received	Number of packs issued	Running Balance
Tamiflu 75mg				
Tamiflu 45mg				
Tamiflu 30mg				
Relenza				

Signed	
Name	

Fax Numbers:

<b>Eastern Locality</b>	028 9055 3622
<b>Northern Locality</b>	028 2531 1141
<b>Southern Locality</b>	028 3741 4625
<b>Western Locality</b>	028 7186 4335

