

Influenza - Statewide Standing Order for Supply of Anti-influenza Medications to Influenza Patients

Document Number PD2009_045

Publication date 15-Jul-2009

Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Governance and Service Delivery
Clinical/ Patient Services - Nursing and Midwifery
Clinical/ Patient Services - Pharmaceutical

Summary This standing order sets out procedures for dispensing, supplying and administering oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and Zanamivir (Relenza), for the purpose of treatment against influenza

Author Branch Health Services Performance Improvement Branch

Branch contact Danielle Kerrigan 9391 9853

Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Affiliated Health Organisations - Declared, NSW Dept of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Audience Staff & Directors, Public Health Units, Pharmacy, Communicable Diseases, Health Promotion, Clinical

Distributed to Public Health System, NSW Department of Health

Review date 15-Jul-2013

Policy Manual Patient Matters

File No. H09/30003

Status Active

Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

STATEWIDE STANDING ORDER FOR SUPPLY OF ANTI-INFLUENZA MEDICATIONS TO INFLUENZA PATIENTS

PURPOSE

The statewide standing order sets out procedures for dispensing, supplying and administering oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®), for the purpose of treatment against influenza.

This standing order authorises a registered nurse to administer and/or supply the specified anti-influenza medications for the treatment of influenza to those who fit an agreed case definition.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

This standing order is a statewide policy with specific regard to the management of patients with influenza and is mandatory in those circumstances where the Chief Health Officer advises chief executives of public health organisations¹ to apply the standing order. This statewide standing order does not require authorisation by Institutional/Area Health Service Drug and Therapeutics Committees and, when activated by the Chief Health Officer, overrides any inconsistent local policy. This standing order is to be reviewed annually by the NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group.

IMPLEMENTATION

When the Statewide Standing Order is applied public health organisation executives are to ensure:

- A registered nurse operating under this standing order is compliant with the requirement to:
 - Determine whether the patient meets the criteria for the standing order
 - Check that the patient is not showing signs and symptoms requiring immediate medical review
 - Contact the medical officer or refer to the Emergency Department for immediate review as required
 - Determine any known allergies, hypersensitivity to the medication or contraindications to treatment. Where these are identified contact the medical officer to discuss how to proceed
 - Document all assessments and details relating to the supply of medication
- The designated medical officer reviews, signs and dates records as soon as possible to confirm that treatment was with in accordance with the standing order.
- All records relating to the administration of medication are to be held at the facility in accordance with the State Records Authority General Retention and Disposal Authority for Public Health Services: Patient/Client Records (GDA 17)

¹ See section 7 of the Health Services Act 1997

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
July 2009 (PD2009_045)	Chief Health Officer/Deputy Director-General Population Health	New statewide standing order applicable to the treatment of patients with influenza.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. Statewide Standing Order for Supply of Anti-Influenza Medications to Influenza Patients: Procedures.

Statewide Standing Order for Supply of Anti-Influenza Medications to Influenza Patients

NSW  **HEALTH**
PROCEDURES

Issue date: July-2009

PD2009_045

PURPOSE

This standing order sets out procedures for dispensing, supplying² and administering the anti-influenza medications oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®), for the purpose of treatment of influenza. It is not applicable for the use of these agents for purposes of prophylaxis (the applicable policy directive for this circumstance is PD2009_026 *Influenza - Statewide Standing Order for Supply of Anti-Influenza Prophylaxis to Defined Contacts*).

This standing order authorises a registered nurse to administer and/or supply the specified anti-influenza medications for the treatment of influenza to those who fit an agreed case definition.

This standing order is a statewide policy with specific regard to the management of patients with influenza and is mandatory in those circumstances where the Chief Health Officer advises chief executives of public health organisations³ to apply the standing order. This statewide standing order does not require authorisation by Institutional/Area Health Service Drug and Therapeutics Committees and, when activated by the Chief Health Officer, overrides any inconsistent local policy. This standing order is to be reviewed annually by the NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group.

USE OF ANTI-INFLUENZA MEDICATIONS FOR TREATMENT – OSELTAMIVIR AND ZANAMIVIR

For the following patient groups, this standing order does **NOT** apply and a medical officer must approve the supply of anti-influenza medications:

- children under the age of 5 years
- patients with contraindications to oseltamivir or zanamivir
- pregnant or breast-feeding women.

Oseltamivir is licenced for use as treatment in children 1 year and older, and zanamivir is licenced for use as treatment in children 5 years and older. The decision to administer to children under these ages should only be taken where the benefit is considered to outweigh the risk, and should be prescribed by a medical practitioner following consultation with a paediatrician.

Oseltamivir and zanamivir should be used with caution in pregnant or breast-feeding women and only where the benefit is considered to outweigh the risk, following consultation with a medical officer.

If the registered nurse applying this standing order has any clinical concerns regarding patients seen by him/her (e.g. people with significant chronic illness or immunosuppression), the patient must be referred to a medical officer or emergency department for review.

USE OF THE STANDING ORDER

Antiviral treatment is indicated only for patients with symptoms meeting the clinical case definition and NSW Health management guidelines. The applicable guidelines currently are *Guidelines for the establishment and operation of flu clinics during the PROTECT phase of the response to H1N1 influenza '09 (July 2009)* and *Guidelines for minimising transmission of influenza in healthcare facilities during the 'PROTECT' phase (July 2009)*.

² In this context 'supply' means to provide to or for a specific patient and is consistent with the definition of supply in section 4 of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*. Administration is generally used to refer to the clinical situation of a health care worker providing a dose of medication to a patient in a clinical setting, and comes under the definition of supply

³ See section 7 of the *Health Services Act 1997*

Administration may be carried out in clinics specific for this purpose, or in other settings. Each clinic (or other setting) must have an appropriately experienced medical officer designated to be on-call to provide advice and support to the registered nurse during the treatment program.

In order to fulfil this standing order, dispensing of antiviral medication will need to be arranged with a public hospital pharmacy department, on behalf of the public health organisation, and at the request of a designated medical officer.

At the end of each shift, the records must be submitted to the designated medical officer to confirm that treatment was administered in accordance with this standing order.

Statewide standing order for supply of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and Zanamivir (Relenza®).

Product information

	Oseltamivir (TAMIFLU®)	Zanamivir (RELENZA®)
Age criteria	Adults and children \geq 1 year of age	Adults and children \geq 5 years of age
Presentation	75 mg capsule 12mg/mL powder for oral suspension (reconstitute with 52 mL water).	5 mg powder in blisters in Rotadisks. Four blisters in each Rotadisk ¹
Treatment dose	Adults, adolescents \geq 13 years and children \geq 40kg: 75 mg po TWICE daily for 5 days within 48 hours of symptom onset. Reduce dose to 75 mg orally ONCE daily in patients with a creatinine clearance of 10-30 mL/min. Children \geq 1 year – 12 years: \leq 15kg: 30 mg orally twice daily for 5 days. ² >15 to 23 kg: 45 mg orally twice daily for 5 days. ² >23 to 40 kg: 60 mg orally twice daily for 5 days. ²	10 mg (two blisters) inhaled twice daily for 5 days Remove blue cover from Diskhaler. Slide white tray out and pull out of diskhaler body. Drop foil Rotadisk into tray, smooth side up. Slide white tray back into diskhaler. Hold the diskhaler level and lift the flap up to puncture one medication blister. The contact should then exhale, close lips around mouthpiece and breath in steadily. Hold the breath for a few seconds and slowly breathe out. To advance to the next blister pull the white tray partially out, and click back to the holder. Lift the flap again and repeat inhalation.
Contraindications	History of hypersensitivity or allergy to Oseltamivir Fructose intolerance (for oral suspension only) Routine haemodialysis or continuous peritoneal dialysis Creatinine clearance <10mL/min History of renal impairment (seek medical advice)	History of hypersensitivity to Zanamivir or lactose.
Precautions	Pregnant or breastfeeding women Chronic renal impairment	Pregnant or breast-feeding women Severe asthma or chronic respiratory disease
Drug interactions	No significant interactions known	No significant interactions known
Side effects	Nausea and vomiting, insomnia, headache, abdominal	Gastrointestinal upset, dizziness, bronchospasm (rare) and decline in respiratory function (rare).
Administration	As a result of reported gastrointestinal upset, Oseltamivir should be taken with food. Gastrointestinal upset is most often associated with the first dose.	Patients with asthma should use their bronchodilator prior to taking Zanamivir. If new onset wheeze develops after taking Zanamivir, discontinue therapy.
Communication and consent	Obtain consent, explain side effects and provide all relevant NSW Health fact sheets to patient and/or parent/guardian.	Obtain consent, explain side effects and provide all relevant NSW Health fact sheets to patient and/or parent/guardian.

1. Each Rotadisk is inserted into a Diskhaler® device that punctures the disc and releases the powder, which is then inhaled. An online video demonstration is available at: <http://www.relenza.com/how-to-use-diskhaler.jsp?languages=English>

2. Both agents are classified as Category B1: Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human foetus having been observed. Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of foetal damage

**Procedure checklist to assist the registered nurse to administer anti-influenza medication
This does not form part of the patient's medical record**

		Y	N
1	Determine whether the patient meets the criteria for the standing order and document the assessment		
2	Check that the patient is not showing signs and symptoms requiring immediate medical review Refer to the medical officer or emergency department for immediate review.		
3	Determine with the patient (or parent/guardian) any known allergies, contraindications to treatment and document that this has occurred Where a contraindication is identified contact the medical officer to discuss how to proceed.		
4	Determine with the patient (or parent/guardian) any renal impairment Where renal impairment is present contact the medical officer to discuss how to proceed		
5	Explain the rationale and purpose of treatment to each patient (or parent/guardian) and provide the appropriate information and NSW Health influenza fact sheets. Document the information provided.		
6	Explain the side effects of the recommended anti-influenza medication and document that this has occurred		
7	Obtain verbal consent from the patient (or parent/guardian), and document that this has been obtained		
8	Weigh the patient if indicated (e.g., for a child being administered Oseltamivir)		
9	Document for each patient the following details, as per record of administration: name, address, phone number, date of birth, sex, weight (if a child), dosage (in mg) and administration details, and the number of doses supplied		
10	Supply recommended medication, labelled by the pharmacist with the drug name, drug frequency, and dose. If the patient's name was unknown by the pharmacist at the time he/she packaged and labelled the medication, the registered nurse must write the patient's name and date on the label at the time of supply		
11	For patients given zanamivir demonstrate how to load the Diskhaler and describe how to inhale the medication. Observe the patient taking their first dose. Patients who use bronchodilator inhalers (short acting beta-agonists) should do so prior to taking the dose of zanamivir		
12	Patients given a course of anti-influenza medications must be advised to inform their general practitioner at their next visit. In addition patients must be advised to seek medical advice if their symptoms worsen whilst taking anti-influenza medication.		
13	A designated medical officer must review, sign and date the records as soon as possible to confirm that the treatment was in accordance with the standing order		
14	All records relating to the administration of anti-influenza medication should be documented on the record of administration and held at the facility in accordance with the State Records Authority General Retention and Disposal Authority for Public Health Services: Patient/Client Records.		

Record of administration and supply of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and Zanamivir (Relenza®) treatment according to Standing Orders

Indicate type of influenza: Seasonal/Avian/ Pandemic/Swine

Date & Time	Patient name	Address	Phone	DOB	Sex	Weight in kg	Fever or other symptoms present?	Precautions or contraindications present?*	Side effects explained?	Consent obtained?	Fact sheets provided?	Name of medication	Dose & frequency	No. of doses supplied	Name of authorised RN	Signature
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				
Date: Time:							<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Oseltamivir <input type="checkbox"/> Zanamivir				

Notes: At the time of sign off by the medical officer all blank spaces MUST be ruled though

Medical Officer Signature:.....Print Name:.....

Date:.....

***If yes, discuss with medical officer before prescribing/administering anti-influenza medication**