



May 1, 2009

Dear Physicians and Pharmacists:

In light of the unique situation related to Influenza A H1N1 (human-swine), the Government of British Columbia has approved a five (5) day course of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and Zanamivir (Relenza) as benefits under Fair PharmaCare. This change is effective as of Saturday May 2, 2009.

Currently this influenza strain is sensitive to neuraminidase inhibitors. It is very important to minimize the risk of development of resistance to preserve treatment effectiveness. We are asking that you consider the following priority indications for use:

- 1) Treatment of patients who are moderately to severely ill with Influenza-like illness (ILI)  
**AND:**
  - Are laboratory confirmed positive for Influenza A H1N1 (human-swine);
  - OR**
  - Have had a likely exposure to swine influenza A H1N1 in the past 7 days as determined by:
    - a. Have traveled to Mexico or an area where swine influenza human-to-human transmission is occurring;
    - OR**
    - b. Have had contact with an individual with ILI who has traveled to Mexico or an area where swine influenza human-to-human transmission is occurring;
- 2) Early treatment of close contacts of the above who develop influenza-like symptoms and have underlying medical conditions that put them at high risk of complications of influenza.

As events evolve, this policy will be re-evaluated and additional information provided.

Sincerely,

Originally signed by

Bob Nakagawa  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health Services

Originally signed by

Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer