

Ora-Sweet® SF Alternatives

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) 12 mg/mL suspension (both commercial and pandemic supply) is currently unavailable. Due to an increase in use, there is also a temporary shortage of Ora-Sweet® SF (sugar free), the vehicle used in the extemporaneous compounding of oseltamivir suspension. The product is back-ordered until approximately October 31. The US manufacturer, Paddock Laboratories, has increased production in response to the shortage. Check with your wholesaler regarding their anticipated release date.

In most cases oseltamivir can be administered to children and adults with difficulty swallowing capsules by opening the capsule and sprinkling the contents on a sweet liquid in order to mask the bitter taste. This is the preferred method of administration.

Home preparation and administration of capsules for 30 mg, 45 mg and 75 mg doses^{a,b}

- Hold 1 oseltamivir capsule over a small bowl. Carefully pull the capsule open and pour the powder into the bowl.
- To disguise the bitter taste add a small amount of a sweet liquid such as chocolate syrup that the child is likely to consume completely. (Note: Do not use honey for children under 1 year.)
- Stir the mixture and give the entire contents of the bowl to the child immediately.
- Rinse the bowl with a small amount of the sweet liquid and give the rinse to the child.

Extemporaneous compounding of 15 mg/mL suspension by pharmacies when commercial supply is unavailable (preferred suspension alternatives)

- Instructions for extemporaneous compounding of suspensions using capsules and Ora-Sweet® SF (sugar-free) vehicle are found on pages 16-19 of the oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) product monograph^a as well as the Health Professionals section of the provincial H1N1 website.^c
- The US FDA has approved Cherry Syrup (Humco®) as an alternative vehicle, using the same compounding instructions as the suspension with Ora-Sweet® SF noted above.^d Humco® Cherry Syrup is expected to be available from Kohl & Frisch shortly.^e
- A replacement for Ora-Sweet® SF may be compounded if it is unavailable from the manufacturer.^f Contact a specialized compounding pharmacy for more information on obtaining a supply.

^a Tamiflu® product monograph. Mississauga, Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., July 10, 2009. www.rochecanada.com OR Health Canada Drug Product Database Online Query <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>

^b BC Centre for Disease Control. How to administer oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) capsules to children. <http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/healthcareproviders> Accessed Oct. 27, 2009.

^c BC Centre for Disease Control. Extemporaneous recipe for oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) suspension. <http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/healthcareproviders> Accessed Oct. 27, 2009.

^d <http://www.tamiflu.com/hcp/extprep.aspx> Accessed Oct. 27, 2009.

^e Pickering R. BC Pharmacy Association. Personal communication. Oct 28, 2009.

^f MacDonald's Prescriptions. Personal communication (604-872-4200). Oct. 27, 2009.