

From the Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Michael McBride



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 40/2009  
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HSS(MD) 40/2009

To: Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/ Health & Social Care Board/Trusts  
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director Health Protection, Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services, Health & Social Care Board/Trusts  
Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health & Social Care Board  
GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board  
All General Practitioners (*for onward distribution to practice staff*)  
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, Public Health Agency  
All Community Pharmacists  
Medical Directors, HSS Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians*)  
Nursing Directors, HSS Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses*)  
GP Out of Hours Centres (*for urgent attention of all staff*)  
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service  
Regional Medicines Information Service

Dear Colleague

### **Dosage of oseltamivir in children under one year of age with swine flu**

This letter is to alert you to a change in the dosage regime for oseltamivir in children aged 6 months and over and up to 1 year of age during an influenza pandemic and the steps that need to be taken to ensure a safe transition to the new dosage.

Up to now, the treatment dose for oseltamivir in children under 1 has been 2mg/kg given twice a day for 5 days. This was based on the international use of oseltamivir, particularly in Japan, and the advice of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### **Treatment of Children aged 6 months and over and up to 1 year of age**

The manufacturer of Tamiflu (oseltamivir), Roche Products Ltd, has been granted a variation to the Market Authorisation for the treatment of children aged 6 months to 12 months during an influenza pandemic. Pharmacokinetic data indicate that a dosage of 3 mg/kg twice daily in children 6 to 12 months of age provides plasma drug exposures in the majority of patients similar to those shown to be clinically efficacious in children aged one year or older and adults.



**ANNEX ONE**  
**DOSAGE CHART FOR CHILDREN 6 MONTHS AND OVER AND UP TO ONE YEAR OF AGE**

TREATMENT: 3mg/kg given twice a day for 5 days PROPHYLAXIS 3mg/kg given once a day for 10 days		
OSELTAMIVIR solution - 15mg in 1 ml Dose calculation based on weight and dose of 3 mg/kg		
Weight range in kg	Dose to be given in ml	Quantity to be supplied
6.0 – 6.4	1.2	1 x 20 ml
6.5 – 6.9	1.3	1 x 20 ml
7.0 – 7.4	1.4	1 x 20 ml
7.5 – 7.9	1.5	1 x 20 ml
8.0 – 8.4	1.6	1 x 20 ml
8.5 – 8.9	1.7	1 x 20 ml
9.0 – 9.4	1.8	1 x 20 ml
9.5 – 9.9	1.9	2 x 20 ml
10.0 – 10.4	2.0	2 x 20 ml
10.5 – 10.9	2.1	2 x 20 ml
11.0 – 11.4	2.2	2 x 20 ml
11.5 – 11.9	2.3	2 x 20 ml
12.0 – 12.4	2.4	2 x 20 ml

**ANNEX TWO**  
**DOSAGE CHART FOR CHILDREN UNDER 6 MONTHS OF AGE**

TREATMENT: 2mg/kg given twice a day for 5 days PROPHYLAXIS 2mg/kg given once a day for 10 days		
OSELTAMIVIR solution - 15mg in 1 ml Dose calculation based on weight and dose of 2 mg/kg		
Weight range in kg	Dose to be given in ml	Quantity to be supplied
3.0 – 3.6	0.4	1 x 20 ml
3.7 – 4.3	0.5	1 x 20 ml
4.4 – 5.0	0.6	1 x 20 ml
5.1 – 5.7	0.7	1 x 20 ml
5.8 – 6.4	0.8	1 x 20 ml
6.5 – 7.1	0.9	1 x 20 ml
7.2 – 7.8	1.0	1 x 20 ml
7.9 – 8.5	1.1	1 x 20 ml
8.6 – 9.2	1.2	1 x 20 ml
9.3 – 9.9	1.3	1 x 20 ml