



Important Update: TAMIFLU AVAILABILITY

Roche has provided the Tennessee Pharmacists Association with the following information and asked that TPA distribute the info to pharmacists in Tennessee.

TAMIFLU SUSPENSION

Roche, the manufacturer of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) for oral suspension, has shipped all remaining in-stock units of Tamiflu for oral suspension to wholesalers. Although Roche Laboratories is working toward replenishing their supply of the medication, the commercially manufactured Tamiflu suspension is not anticipated to be available for shipment from Roche until November. Wholesalers will continue to ship Tamiflu for oral suspension until all units are distributed.

Roche Laboratories reminds pharmacists that, when Tamiflu for oral suspension is unavailable, **EMERGENCY** Tamiflu for oral suspensions may be compounded using Tamiflu (oseltamivir) capsules according to manufacturer instructions in the package insert. This package insert may be found at www.rocheusa.com/products/tamiflu/pi.pdf. This compounding procedure is intended for use only in emergency situations, and these directions are not intended to be used if the FDA-approved, commercially manufactured Tamiflu for oral suspension is readily available from wholesalers or the manufacturer. Always consult the Tamiflu package insert before preparing emergency Tamiflu for oral suspension from Tamiflu capsules. In addition to required information, the Tamiflu (oseltamivir) package insert also contains information regarding:

- Emergency compounding of an oral suspension from Tamiflu capsules
- Storage of the pharmacy-compounded suspension
- Dosing charts for the pharmacy-compounded suspension

IMPORTANT NOTE: The compounding procedure provided by Roche in the package insert results in a 15 mg/mL suspension, which is **DIFFERENT** from the commercially available Tamiflu® for Oral Suspension, which has a concentration of 12 mg/mL.

Pharmacists receiving a prescription for the commercially available Tamiflu® suspension are advised to contact the prescriber to get a new prescription and new dosage instructions for the compounded product.

Patients may also prepare Tamiflu for oral suspension from Tamiflu capsules **IF DIRECTED TO DO SO BY THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER**. These preparation instructions can be found in the patient package insert located at www.rocheusa.com/products/tamiflu/ppi.pdf.

TAMIFLU AVAILABILITY AND SHIPPING

Emergency Stocking: If a retail pharmacy customer cannot access Tamiflu from either their primary or secondary wholesaler, they may again access product through the Roche Emergency Drop Shipment Policy. During normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST), the servicing wholesaler can call the Roche Order Fulfillment Department at 1-800-526-0625 for a drop shipment (at no additional cost) directly to the store.

For more information please visit:

www.Tamiflu.com

www.rocheusa.com/products/tamiflu/pi.pdf

www.rocheusa.com/products/tamiflu/ppi.pdf

Billing for H1N1 Administration

A new Special Edition MLN (Medicare Learning Network) Matters article entitled "Billing for the Administration of the Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine" is now available. This article explains Medicare coverage and reimbursement rules for the H1N1 vaccine and also addresses seasonal flu coverage and reimbursement.

Note that Medicare will pay for seasonal flu vaccinations even if the vaccinations are rendered earlier in the year than normal. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) understand that such preparations are critical for the upcoming flu season, especially in planning for the influenza A (H1N1) vaccine.

Though Medicare typically pays for one vaccination per year, if more than one vaccination per year is medically necessary (i.e., the number of doses of a vaccine and/or type of influenza vaccine), then Medicare will pay for those additional vac-

inations. According to CMS, their Medicare claims processing contractors have been notified to expect and prepare for earlier-than-usual seasonal flu claims, and there should not be a problem in getting those claims paid. Furthermore, in the event that it is necessary for Medicare beneficiaries to receive both a seasonal flu vaccination and an influenza A (H1N1) vaccination, then Medicare will pay for both.

Please be advised that if either vaccine is provided free of charge to the health care provider, then Medicare will only pay for the vaccine's administration (not for the vaccine itself).

All providers administering flu vaccine should review the MLN Matters article at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0920.pdf and be sure their billing staffs are aware of this information.

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THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE

