



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

November 6, 2009

Dear Health Care Provider,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) is pleased to announce a program for providing low-cost antiviral medications (Tamiflu® 75mg, Tamiflu® 12mg/ML suspension, and Relenza®) to underinsured and uninsured patients in NYC during the 2009-2010 influenza season. Please note that **all providers in NYC may utilize this program** for their patients; there is no enrollment necessary. This program is scheduled to begin on November 13, 2009.

This antiviral access program will permit eligible patients to obtain antivirals to which they might not otherwise have access due to the expense. DOHMH has provided antivirals to pharmacies who have agreed to dispense these antivirals to eligible patients for an administrative fee of no more than five (\$5.00) dollars. The process for determining eligibility and ensuring patients have access to these low-cost antivirals is diagrammed in the attached figure.

The pharmacies participating in this program include all Duane Reade, Rite Aid, and Walgreens locations in the five boroughs of NYC. Additional sites and chains may be added as the season progresses. Providers may call the DOHMH Provider Access Line (PAL) at (866) 692-3641 or (866) NYC-DOH1 Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm for current information about participants and other program details.

Patients who have prescription drug coverage through Medicaid or other insurance plans should utilize their coverage to obtain antivirals through the regular mechanisms, though provision has been made for those who cannot afford the prescription co-pay. (Note that the Medicaid co-pay for antivirals is less than the administrative fee described above.)

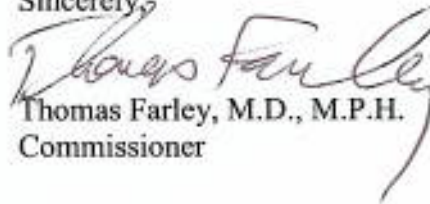
All Tamiflu suspension dispensed through this program is product for which the expiration date has been extended under the federal government's Shelf Life Extension Program (SLEP). Such product is the subject of an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) issued by the Food & Drug Administration. A copy of the EUA, dated July 14, 2009, is attached, along with a Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers, a Fact Sheet for Patients and Parents, and an FDA-approved package insert that covers the dosage forms and strengths of authorized Tamiflu covered under the EUA. More information on the terms of the EUA can be found on the FDA's website.

You are encouraged to provide the Fact Sheet for Patients and Parents if you prescribe Tamiflu suspension under this program.

DOHMH seeks to ensure that all individuals who require antiviral medications have access to them during this influenza season, but we encourage providers to use this program judiciously. Indications of misuse or fraud may be referred to the New York State Department of Health for investigation. In addition, should the program be over-utilized, DOHMH may institute additional requirements for eligibility.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this program and for your commitment to provide the best care possible to all New Yorkers, regardless of ability to pay.

Sincerely,



Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

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Enclosures:

EUA from FDA

Fact Sheet for Health providers

Fact sheet for patients and parents

FDA approved package insert for Tamiflu

Decision Flow Chart

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Healthcare Providers