

with UK licensing) for post-exposure prophylaxis in at-risk patients who are not effectively protected by influenza vaccine, and who have been in close contact with someone suffering from influenza-like illness in the same household or residential setting. Oseltamivir should be given within 48 hours of exposure to influenza. (National surveillance schemes, including those run by Public Health England, should be used to indicate when influenza is circulating in the community.)

- During local outbreaks of influenza-like illness, when there is a high level of certainty that influenza is present, oseltamivir may be used for post-exposure prophylaxis in at-risk patients (regardless of influenza vaccination) living in long-term residential or nursing homes.

At risk patients include those aged 65 years or older or those who have one or more of the following conditions:

- chronic respiratory disease (including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease);
- chronic heart disease;
- chronic renal disease;
- chronic liver disease;
- chronic neurological disease;
- immunosuppression;
- diabetes mellitus.

The Department of Health in England has advised (November 2010 and April 2011) that 'at risk patients' also includes patients under 65 years of age who are at risk of developing medical complications from influenza (treatment only) or women who are pregnant.

This guidance does not cover the circumstances of a pandemic, an impending pandemic, or a widespread epidemic of a new strain of influenza to which there is little or no immunity in the community.

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta158

► **Oseltamivir, zanamivir, and amantadine for treatment of influenza (February 2009) NICE TA168**

Oseltamivir is **not** a substitute for vaccination, which remains the most effective way of preventing illness from influenza.

- When influenza is circulating in the community, oseltamivir is an option recommended (in accordance with UK licensing) for the treatment of influenza in at-risk patients who can start treatment within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. (National surveillance schemes, including those run by Public Health England, should be used to indicate when influenza is circulating in the community.)
- During local outbreaks of influenza-like illness, when there is a high level of certainty that influenza is present, oseltamivir may be used for treatment in at-risk patients living in long-term residential or nursing homes.

At risk patients include those aged over 65 years or those who have one or more of the following conditions:

- chronic respiratory disease (including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease);
- chronic heart disease;
- chronic renal disease;
- chronic liver disease;
- chronic neurological disease;
- immunosuppression;
- diabetes mellitus.

The Department of Health in England has advised (November 2010 and April 2011) that 'at risk patients' also includes patients under 65 years of age who are at risk of developing medical complications from influenza (treatment only) or women who are pregnant.

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epidemic of a new strain of influenza to which there is little or no immunity in the community.

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NHS restrictions Tamiflu® is not prescribable in NHS primary care except for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza as indicated in the NICE guidance; endorse prescription 'SLS'.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: oral suspension, oral solution

Oral suspension

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 9

EXCIPIENTS: May contain Sorbitol

► **Tamiflu** (Roche Products Ltd)

Oseltamivir (as Oseltamivir phosphate) 6 mg per 1 ml Tamiflu 6mg/ml oral suspension sugar-free | 65 ml [PoM](#) £10.27 DT = £10.27

Capsule

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 9

► **Tamiflu** (Roche Products Ltd)

Oseltamivir (as Oseltamivir phosphate) 30 mg Tamiflu 30mg capsules | 10 capsule [PoM](#) £7.71 DT = £7.71

Oseltamivir (as Oseltamivir phosphate) 45 mg Tamiflu 45mg capsules | 10 capsule [PoM](#) £15.41 DT = £15.41

Oseltamivir (as Oseltamivir phosphate) 75 mg Tamiflu 75mg capsules | 10 capsule [PoM](#) £15.41 DT = £15.41

Zanamivir

20-May-2020

- **DRUG ACTION** Reduces replication of influenza A and B viruses by inhibiting viral neuraminidase.

• **INDICATIONS AND DOSE**

Post-exposure prophylaxis of influenza

► BY INHALATION OF POWDER

- Child 5-17 years: 10 mg once daily for 10 days
- Adult: 10 mg once daily for 10 days

Prevention of influenza during an epidemic

► BY INHALATION OF POWDER

- Child 5-17 years: 10 mg once daily for up to 28 days
- Adult: 10 mg once daily for up to 28 days

Treatment of influenza

► BY INHALATION OF POWDER

- Child 5-17 years: 10 mg twice daily for 5 days (for up to 10 days if resistance to oseltamivir suspected)
- Adult: 10 mg twice daily for 5 days (for up to 10 days if resistance to oseltamivir suspected)

Treatment of influenza [complicated and potentially life-threatening, resistant to other anti-influenza medicinal products and/or other treatments, including inhaled zanamivir]

► BY INTRAVENOUS INFUSION

- Child 6 months-5 years: 14 mg/kg twice daily for 5 to 10 days
- Child 6-17 years: 12 mg/kg twice daily (max. per dose 600 mg) for 5 to 10 days
- Adult: 600 mg twice daily for 5 to 10 days

• **UNLICENSED USE**

- When used by inhalation Use of zanamivir for up to 10 days if resistance to oseltamivir suspected is an unlicensed duration.

• **CAUTIONS**

- When used by inhalation Asthma - chronic pulmonary disease - uncontrolled chronic illness

CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION

- Asthma and chronic pulmonary disease
- When used by inhalation Risk of bronchospasm—short-acting bronchodilator should be available. Avoid in severe asthma unless close monitoring possible and appropriate facilities available to treat bronchospasm.