
Version 1.0.
Acknowledgements

This guidance is based on Public Health England guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, version 5.0, October 2014
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Foreword

This guidance summarises the current Health Protection Scotland (HPS) recommendations for the antiviral treatment and prophylaxis of influenza for the season 2014-15. It draws on guidance already issued by Public Health England, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the Scottish Government (SG) and the World Health Organization. In areas where adequate evidence is absent, the recommendations rely on expert consensus opinion.

This guidance should be used in secondary care for any patient where influenza is suspected or confirmed at any time. In primary care contractually the guidance should only be used once the SG issues notice that influenza is circulating and that antiviral agents can be used. However, antivirals may be used in primary care out with the periods when national surveillance indicates that influenza virus is circulating in the community in certain situations. For example during localised outbreaks of influenza-like illness for the treatment of influenza in ‘at-risk’ people who live in long-term residential or nursing homes. It applies to the management of the currently circulating influenza viruses, influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and H3N2 and influenza B.

This guidance covers common treatment and prophylaxis scenarios. A list of documents referred to in the guideline is provided in Appendix 2. This guidance does not cover infection control, which is an essential part of the response to a case of suspected or confirmed influenza. Please refer to the influenza infection control information available from the HPS website (1).

Influenza management is a complex and evolving area. This guidance may be updated during the season. Early specialist advice is recommended for the management of patients with complicated influenza. Specialist advice should be obtained from a local microbiologist or virologist in the first instance; further advice can be obtained from HPS if required.

Please note that in some instances this guidance describes the unlicensed use of medications and use of some unlicensed medications for which there are limited safety and efficacy data. Specialist advice should always be obtained before using these products. This guidance represents the view of the HPS only and not that of any manufacturer of medicines.

Update following the 2014 Cochrane Review

Public Health England (PHE) has produced a summary of the current guidance and evidence and a position statement on the use of antivirals for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza (2). The PHE summary and position statement has been published following the 2014 Cochrane Review on the efficacy of antivirals (3). The findings of the 2014 Cochrane review were not substantially different to the previous (2010 and 2012) reviews. Overall the 2014 review adds to the evidence base for the treatment of influenza in some settings, however the conclusions made are limited due to the variation in outcomes, patient groups, and settings studied.
The key messages from the summary are:

- there is evidence that antivirals can reduce the risk of death in patients hospitalised with influenza
- in the light of this evidence, it is important that doctors treating severely unwell patients continue to prescribe these drugs where appropriate
- PHE continues to support the early use of antivirals for patients with proven or suspected seasonal influenza who are in high risk groups, or who are considerably unwell (even if not in a high risk group)

Health Protection Scotland endorses the above view and this position is consistent with that taken by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other national public health organisations such as the USA’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Although there is no evidence to support any change to the recommended use of neuraminidase inhibitor, media reporting around the Cochrane Review 2014 publication suggested that antivirals are not effective for influenza. This may impact the prescribing of these important drugs.

It is essential that physicians treating severely unwell patients in any setting are not deterred from prescribing what may be lifesaving drugs as a result of confusion over efficacy in this situation; this is especially true for patients hospitalised with proven or suspected influenza.
Definitions

1. **Uncomplicated influenza**: Influenza presenting with fever, coryza, generalised symptoms (headache, malaise, myalgia, arthralgia) and sometimes GI symptoms, but without any features of complicated influenza.

2. **Complicated influenza**: Influenza requiring hospital admission and/or with symptoms and signs of lower respiratory tract infection (hypoxaemia, dyspnoea, lung infiltrate), central nervous system involvement and/or a significant exacerbation of an underlying medical condition.

3. **Risk factors for complicated influenza**:
   a. Pregnancy (including up to two weeks post partum).
   b. Age over 65 years.
   c. Chronic cardiac, pulmonary, renal, hepatic or neurological disease.
   d. Diabetes mellitus.
   e. Immunosuppression.
   f. Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40).

   For further details refer to the Green Book (4). Morbid obesity is not described in the Green Book but there is independent evidence that it is a risk factor.

4. **Severe immunosuppression**:
   a. Severe primary immunodeficiency.
   b. Current or recent (within six months) chemotherapy or radiotherapy for malignancy.
   c. Solid organ transplant recipients on immunosuppressive therapy.
   d. Bone marrow transplant recipients currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment, or who received it within the last 12 months (longer with graft versus host disease).
   e. Patients currently receiving high dose systemic corticosteroids (equivalent to ≥ 40mg prednisolone per day for ≥ 1 week in an adult or ≥ 2mg/kg/day for ≥ 1 week in a child), and for at least three months after treatment has stopped.
   f. Patients currently or recently (within six months) on other types of immunosuppressive therapy (e.g. azathioprine, cyclosporin, methotrexate, cyclophosphamide, leflunomide and the newer cytokine inhibitors) alone or in combination with lower doses of steroids: seek expert clinical advice.
   g. HIV infected patients with severe immunosuppression (CD4 <200/µl or <15% of total lymphocytes in adult or child over five; CD4 <500/µl or <15% of total lymphocytes in a child aged one to five; expert clinical opinion in a child aged under one).
Part 1: Treatment of suspected or confirmed influenza

Algorithm: Selection of antiviral therapy for treatment of influenza

Please refer to the definitions provided on page 5 when using this algorithm.

1. For treatment of suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant influenza, see section 1.3.

2. Inhaled zanamivir via Diskhaler may not be an effective delivery route in some patients, including those unable to administer the Diskhaler and patients with severe underlying respiratory disease. It is not licensed for use in children under five years.

3. For treatment of complicated influenza, see section 1.2. Use second line treatment if there is poor response to oseltamivir, or if there is poor gastrointestinal absorption.

4. Zanamivir solution for IV or nebulised administration is an unlicensed medication and is available on a compassionate use basis for named patients in the UK, see section 1.3. Where possible, patients who have good respiratory function despite their illness and can use the Diskhaler should receive inhaled zanamivir rather than nebulised or IV zanamivir. See section 1.2.

5. Zanamivir is available for inhalation (Diskhaler device) or as unlicensed aqueous solution for nebulised or intravenous use. The powder preparation for the Diskhaler should NEVER be made into nebuliser solution or administered to a mechanically ventilated patient.
1.1 Adults and children in community / A&E with uncomplicated influenza

All patients should be advised of the symptoms of complicated influenza and told to seek medical help should their condition worsen. The following dose recommendations are for adults. For paediatric dosing, see section 1.3.1. For further information on use of antivirals for treatment of influenza see NICE guidance (5).

Previously healthy people (excluding pregnant women): No treatment, or oseltamivir (oral) if physician feels patient is at serious risk of developing complications from influenza.

At risk population, including pregnant women: Consider oseltamivir 75mg twice daily for five days (oral). Do not wait for laboratory confirmation. Treatment should be started as soon as possible, ideally within 48 hours of onset. There is evidence that treatment may reduce the risk of severe illness up to five days after onset. Treatment after 48 hours is an off-label use of oseltamivir.

Severely immunosuppressed patients: Rapid emergence of oseltamivir resistance on treatment has been described in these patients. They should receive zanamivir (inhaled) 10 mg twice daily for five days. Treatment should be started as soon as possible, and ideally within 36 hours of symptom onset.

Suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant influenza in a patient who requires treatment: Zanamivir (inhaled) 10 mg twice daily for up to ten days (off label duration). Treatment should be started as soon as possible, and ideally within 36 hours of symptom onset.

Management of patients who are severely immunosuppressed or have suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant influenza but are unable to administer inhaled zanamivir: Some patients who would normally receive inhaled zanamivir are unable to use it, either due to underlying severe respiratory disease or inability to effectively administer the Diskhaler (including children under 5, for whom zanamivir is unlicensed). Patients who are severely immunosuppressed and cannot take inhaled zanamivir should receive oseltamivir orally. As they are at increased risk of developing oseltamivir resistant influenza, they should be reviewed clinically to assess response to therapy. Patients who have suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant infection and cannot take inhaled zanamivir should receive nebulised aqueous zanamivir (seek specialist advice). This is an unlicensed medication and the dose is provided on the manufacturer’s guidance supplied with the drug (see Section 1.3.2 and Appendix 3).
1.2 Adults and children in hospital and/or with complicated influenza

All patients with complicated influenza should receive treatment, usually in hospital. Treatment should be started as early as possible but should always be given, no matter how long after onset of illness. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.

Previous influenza immunisation does not exclude influenza. Duration of therapy depends on clinical response. Test for antiviral resistance in patients who do not respond after five days of treatment.

The following recommendations include the use of intravenous (IV) antivirals and nebulised aqueous zanamivir, which are **unlicensed medications** (see Section 1.3.2 and Appendix 3).

**First line treatment:** Oseltamivir orally or by nasogastric route (see exceptions below). There is evidence that oral/nasogastric oseltamivir is adequately absorbed in critical illness at standard doses.

**Second line treatment:** If there is poor gastrointestinal absorption, use zanamivir. Some patients who are considered to have good respiratory function despite their illness may be able to use inhaled zanamivir (Diskhaler). Those who cannot should receive nebulised aqueous zanamivir (unlicensed). The following patients should receive IV zanamivir (unlicensed): patients who have already failed to respond to nebulised zanamivir; patients who have developed respiratory conditions affecting nebuliser delivery (e.g. airways disease, pulmonary oedema); patients who have multi-organ involvement or are on intensive care. IV oseltamivir is available as an alternative but there is very limited experience of its use in the UK.

**Exceptions:**

**Severely immunosuppressed patients:** Do not use oseltamivir. Some patients considered to have good respiratory function despite their illness may be able to use inhaled zanamivir (Diskhaler). Those who cannot should receive nebulised aqueous zanamivir (unlicensed). IV zanamivir (unlicensed) should be used for patients who are not responding to nebulised zanamivir, who have respiratory conditions affecting nebuliser delivery, or who have multi-organ involvement or are on intensive care.

**Suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistance:** e.g. contact of known oseltamivir resistant case. Do not use oseltamivir. Some patients considered to have good respiratory function despite their illness may be able to use inhaled zanamivir (Diskhaler). Those who cannot should receive nebulised aqueous zanamivir (unlicensed). IV zanamivir (unlicensed) may be used for patients who are not responding to nebulised zanamivir, who have respiratory conditions affecting nebuliser delivery, or who have multi-organ involvement or are on intensive care.
1.3 Supplementary material: Treatment

Note for prescribers: NICE guidance, approved for use in Scotland by NHS HIS, is relevant to all clinicians (primary and secondary care). Part 12 (drugs to be prescribed under certain circumstances in NHS pharmaceutical services) of Scottish Drug Tariff, restricts GPs to only prescribe antiviral medicines to specified people who are listed in the Drug Tariff (clinical priority and risk groups). GPs have the discretion to prescribe antiviral medicines for people who may not be in the specified at-risk groups but who they believe would suffer serious complications if not treated with an antiviral medicine. However, clinicians in secondary care are not subject to the Scottish Drug Tariff restrictions, so can use their clinical judgement to prescribe antiviral medicines, including for those not in the at-risk groups.

1.3.1 Antiviral dosage and schedules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0-30 days</th>
<th>31-90 days</th>
<th>91-365 days</th>
<th>1-13 years: Dose according to weight below</th>
<th>Adults (13 years and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oseltamivir oral (treatment course: 5 days)</td>
<td>2mg/kg/dose twice daily</td>
<td>2.5mg/kg/dose twice daily</td>
<td>3mg/kg/dose twice daily</td>
<td>30mg twice daily</td>
<td>45mg twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≤15kg</td>
<td>&gt;15-23kg</td>
<td>&gt;23-40kg</td>
<td>&gt;40kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanamivir Inhaled (treatment course: 5 days)</td>
<td>Not licensed for children &lt;5 years old.</td>
<td>Adults and children ≥ 5 years: 10mg twice daily</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oseltamivir oral suspension should be used only for children under the age of one year. It is available as Tamiflu oral suspension (Roche, 6mg/ml powder for oral suspension). The pack includes an oral dispenser, which is marked in millilitres (mls), since prescriptions for Tamiflu® 6mg/ml powder should state the dose in millilitres. This is an off-label use of oseltamivir but is supported by the BNF for children. Children over one year of age and adults with swallowing difficulties, and those receiving nasogastric oseltamivir, should use capsules which are opened and mixed into an appropriate sugary liquid as oseltamivir has a very bitter taste. If the powder for suspension is used for children over one year of age and/or adults, there may not be adequate quantities of the powder for suspension to meet the demand for the under 1 year age group. It is important that the powder for suspension is reserved for the under one year age group.

Aqueous zanamivir solution for nebulised or IV administration is an unlicensed medicine. Dosing information is supplied by the manufacturer on the physician’s guidance document that accompanies the medication when issued.

For the use of oseltamivir and zanamivir in pregnancy, breastfeeding, or renal or hepatic dysfunction, see Appendix 1.
Dosage in obese patients: The evidence for the potential need for a higher dose in obese patients is currently under review, guidance on this will be included in subsequent versions of this document.

1.3.2 Unlicensed treatments

All of the following influenza treatments are unlicensed medications. They can be issued for individual patient use. The prescription of unlicensed medications is the clinical responsibility of the prescribing physician. It is part of the prescribing responsibility of the physician to return the case data requested to the manufacturer, as this is an important source of safety monitoring data. Always seek specialist advice before initiating an unlicensed treatment for influenza.

**Zanamivir aqueous solution:** Zanamivir is available as a powder for inhalation (licensed) or in aqueous solution (unlicensed). Aqueous zanamivir may be administered through a nebuliser or intravenously. It is the only unlicensed treatment recommended by HPS in certain circumstances for first and second line therapy based on the significant experience of using it during the 2010/11 flu season. It is available on a compassionate use basis for named patients from GlaxoSmithKline. Details of how to obtain aqueous zanamivir are provided in Appendix 3. Recommendations for when to use nebulised or intravenous delivery are included in sections 1.1 and 1.2 above. Note that the powder preparation should NOT be used to make nebuliser solution.

**IV oseltamivir:** Intravenous oseltamivir is also available on a named patient basis but there is very limited experience of its use in the UK.

**Peramivir (IV) and laninamivir (INH)** are other antiviral agents licensed outside the UK. In the UK they are for use in approved research trials only.

**Ribavirin (IV)** is unlicensed for the treatment of influenza and may be used in combination only in the context of an approved research protocol. It should never be used for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza in pregnant women.

1.3.3 Treatment of oseltamivir resistant influenza

The same criteria apply in deciding whom to treat. Previously healthy people with uncomplicated disease, or those who have recovered with or without oseltamivir, do not require treatment. Those who do require treatment should have zanamivir. Those with uncomplicated influenza should receive inhaled zanamivir (or nebulised aqueous zanamivir if the inhaled route is unsuitable); those with complicated influenza may receive inhaled, nebulised or intravenous zanamivir as is appropriate to their clinical condition (see section 1.2). In the event of changes in the epidemiology or clinical aspects of drug resistant influenza during the season, HPS will alert clinicians and provide updated advice.
1.3.4 Management of influenza in critical care

The principles are the same as for complicated influenza. The first line therapy remains oral/nasogastric oseltamivir and there is evidence that standard dose oseltamivir orally or by nasogastric route is adequately absorbed even in critical illness. The dose may be increased to 150 mg (off label dose) in critically ill patients in an attempt to maximise drug levels in the lungs, reduce shedding and prevent viral rebound. However as with complicated influenza, zanamivir should be used when there is suspected poor GI absorption or failure to respond to oseltamivir. **In intensive care, zanamivir should be given intravenously.**

Further guidance on management of influenza on intensive care is provided in the Practice Notes **Critical Care Management of adults with influenza including H1N1**, and **Critical Care Management of children with influenza H1N1** (6).

Note on dosing in critical care: The evidence for recommendations on increasing the dosage in critically ill patients is currently under review, and may be revised in subsequent versions of this document.
**Part 2: Post exposure prophylaxis**

Previous influenza immunisation does not preclude post exposure prophylaxis. For further information on which contacts of a case of influenza should receive prophylaxis, refer to guidance from NICE (7), and consider consulting the local Consultant in Public Health Medicine (CPHM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previously healthy (excluding pregnant women)</th>
<th>Exposed to circulating influenza H1N1 (2009), H3N2, or B</th>
<th>Exposed to suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No prophylaxis</td>
<td>No prophylaxis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At risk of complicated influenza (including pregnant women but excluding severely immunosuppressed patients and children under 5 years)</th>
<th>Consider oseltamivir orally for 10 days if therapy can be started within 48 hrs of last contact; or after 48 hrs on specialist advice only</th>
<th>Consider zanamivir inhaled for 10 days if therapy can be started within 36 hrs of last contact; or after 36 hrs on specialist advice only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider zanamivir inhaled for 10 days if therapy can be started within 36 hrs of last contact; or after 36 hrs on specialist advice only. If unable to administer zanamivir by inhalation, oseltamivir orally 10 days (if therapy can be started within 48 hrs of last contact; or after 48 hrs on specialist advice only).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss with specialist. Consider nebulised aqueous zanamivir (unlicensed) after individual risk assessment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severely immunosuppressed patients (excluding children under 5 years)</th>
<th>Discuss with specialist. Consider nebulised aqueous zanamivir (unlicensed) after individual risk assessment.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inhaled zanamivir is not licensed for children under five years old, and is unlikely to be an effective delivery route in these patients. Some other patients, such as those with severe underlying respiratory disease, may also be unable to use the Diskhaler effectively. Severely immunosuppressed children under five years and all other severely immunosuppressed patients who cannot use the Diskhaler and require prophylaxis after exposure to currently circulating strains of influenza should receive oral oseltamivir, with advice to seek immediate medical attention if unwell.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Severely immunocompromised patients who are unable to use the Diskhaler, including severely immunosuppressed children aged under five years, and who are exposed to suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistant influenza should be discussed with a specialist. The use of unlicensed nebulised aqueous zanamivir may be considered based on an individual risk assessment (See section 1.3.2).
Specialist advice should be sought for prophylaxis in institutional or healthcare settings where repeated or ongoing exposure is suspected.

### 2.1 Supplementary information: Prophylaxis

#### Antiviral dosage and schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPHYLAXIS</th>
<th>0-30 days</th>
<th>31-90 days</th>
<th>91-365 days</th>
<th>1-13 years: Dose according to weight below</th>
<th>Adults (13 years and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>≤15kg</td>
<td>&gt;15-23kg</td>
<td>&gt;23-40kg</td>
<td>&gt;40kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Oseltamivir oral** (prophylaxis course: 10 days)
- 2mg/kg once daily
- 2.5mg/kg once daily
- 3mg/kg once daily
- 30mg once daily
- 45mg once daily
- 60mg once daily
- 75mg once daily

**Zanamivir inhaled** (prophylaxis course: 10 days)
- Not licensed for children <5 years old.
- Adults and children ≥ 5 years: 10mg once daily

Oseltamivir oral suspension should be used only for children under the age of one year. It is available as Tamiflu oral suspension (Roche, 6mg/ml powder for oral suspension). The pack includes an oral dispenser, which is marked in millilitres (mls), since prescriptions for Tamiflu® 6mg/ml powder should state the dose in millilitres. This is an off-label use of oseltamivir but is supported by the BNF for children. Children over one year of age and adults with swallowing difficulties, and those receiving nasogastric oseltamivir, should use capsules which are opened and mixed into an appropriate sugary liquid as oseltamivir has a very bitter taste. If the powder for suspension is used for children over one year of age and/or adults, there may not be adequate quantities of the powder for suspension to meet the demand for the under 1 year age group. It is important that the powder for suspension is reserved for the under one year age group. Inhaled zanamivir is not licensed for children aged under the age of 5.
## Appendix 1: Use of antivirals in pregnancy, breastfeeding, hepatic or renal dysfunction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Liver dysfunction</th>
<th>Renal dysfunction</th>
<th>Pregnancy</th>
<th>Breastfeeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oseltamivir oral</td>
<td>Standard dosing</td>
<td>Adults&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Use only if benefit outweighs risk. FDA category C&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Amount probably too small to be harmful; use only if benefit outweighs risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Haemodialysis:</strong> 30mg after each HD session for treatment, every 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; session for prophylaxis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Peritoneal dialysis:</strong> single 30mg dose for treatment, 30mg dose once weekly for prophylaxis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CrCl &lt; 10ml/min:</strong> Avoid for treatment or prophylaxis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CrCl 10-30 ml/min:</strong> 30mg once daily for treatment; 30mg every 48 hours for prophylaxis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CrCl 30-60 ml/min:</strong> 30mg: twice daily for treatment &amp; once daily for prophylaxis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CrCl &gt;60 ml/min:</strong> standard dosing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanamivir inhaled (Diskhaler)</td>
<td>Standard dosing</td>
<td>Standard dosing</td>
<td>Use only if benefit outweighs risk. FDA category C&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Amount probably too small to be harmful; use only if benefit outweighs risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanamivir solution intravenous/nebulised</td>
<td>Refer to the physician’s guidance document supplied by the manufacturer with the medication.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup>Dosing information in renal failure is derived from the Summary Product Characteristics for oseltamivir, updated 23/05/2014. It represents the most recent information available and may be different from that provided in the BNF.

<sup>2</sup>FDA pregnancy category C: No malformation, maternal toxicity or embryotoxicity were observed in animal studies. No data available in humans.

For further information about paediatric dosing in renal dysfunction, consult the guidance from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (8).

### Use of IV or nebulised zanamivir in renal dysfunction

IV zanamivir is renally excreted and requires dose modification for patients with renal dysfunction including those on renal replacement therapy. Consult the manufacturer’s physician guidance document that is supplied with the medication.
Appendix 2: Sources of information

1. Health Protection Scotland. *General information and infection control precautions to minimise transmission of Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs) in the healthcare setting.*


8. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, British Association for Paediatric Nephrology and Department of Health *Antivirals and advice for children with renal failure* 2009.
   http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/asset_library/Research/Clinical%20Effectiveness/Practice%20Statements/Antivirals%20and%20advice%20for%20children%20with%20renal%20failure%20v14%20final%20draft%20271109%20_3_.pdf
Appendix 3: Supply of zanamivir aqueous solution on a named patient basis from GlaxoSmithKline

(Note: The use of nebulised or intravenous aqueous zanamivir is unlicensed. Clinicians should make a very careful judgement about the use of unlicensed zanamivir – see Guidance Notes1, 2)

Suspected or confirmed diagnosis of influenza

Complicated Influenza and decision to treat with zanamivir aqueous solution (iv or nebulised) made by the responsible clinical team1, 2

See HPS Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza 2014-15

Hospital pharmacist or member of clinical team (e.g. doctor or nurse) contact GSK to obtain relevant paperwork. [GSK contact details: 0800 036 1060 or 0800 7839 733].

(Paperwork includes UK Specific Physician’s Guidance Document; Patient Medication Request Form and UK Specific Adverse Event Reporting Requirements). The Patient Medication Request Form should be completed by the “most senior doctor” managing the care of the patient, in conjunction with the hospital pharmacist wherever possible3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Once relevant paperwork appropriately completed, signed and returned, GSK will deliver zanamivir aqueous solution to the appropriate clinical area in accordance with the requirements of the requesting clinical team9, 10, 11, 12

Clinical colleagues in conjunction with hospital pharmacy team provide feedback to GSK as appropriate, especially with pharmacovigilance data (using the GSK Case Report Form and Serious Adverse Event Forms)13, 14
Guidance Notes

General
1. Zanamivir aqueous solution is a globally unlicensed medicine, only available on a named patient supply basis. Clinicians should therefore make a very careful judgement about the use of unlicensed zanamivir (see HPS Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, 2014-15). **The clinician prescribing zanamivir as an unlicensed medicine either for use as a nebulised treatment or intravenously, accepts clinical and professional responsibility for their prescribing decision.**

2. NHS Boards should also follow their own Unlicensed Medicines Policies and MHRA Guidance Note 14 “The Supply of Relevant Medicinal Products for Individual Patients” in conjunction with this guidance. For example (but not limited to) NHS Boards should ensure the recording of batch number and expiry dates of zanamivir aqueous solution received and supplied.

3. Wherever possible, ordering of zanamivir aqueous solution should follow “normal” medicines processes in NHS Boards, i.e. the hospital pharmacy should, if possible, order zanamivir aqueous solution.

4. GSK hours of despatch for zanamivir aqueous solution are [See additionally, points 10 and 11 below]:
   a. Monday – Friday: 8am to 7pm
   b. Saturday & Sunday: 8am to 3pm
   c. Over the Christmas and New Year period, hours of dispatch are as follows:
      - Wednesday 24 December 2014: 8am – 5pm
      - Thursday 25 December 2014: 8am – 3pm
      - Friday 26 December 2014: 8am – 3pm
      - Saturday 27 December 2014: 8am - 3pm
      - Sunday 28 December 2014: 8am - 3pm
      - Monday 29 December 2014: 8am - 3pm
      - Tuesday 30 December 2014: 8am – 3pm
      - Wednesday 31 December 2014: 8am – 3pm
      - Thursday 01 January 2015: 8am – 3pm
      - Friday 02 January 2015: 8am – 5pm

Requesting a Named Patient Supply
5. When a decision to prescribe zanamivir aqueous solution is confirmed, contact should be made with **GSK on 0800 036 1060 or 0800 7839 733**. The hospital pharmacy team can make this initial contact with GSK, or GSK will also accept an initial request from a member of the clinical team looking after the patient (i.e. senior nurse or doctor) [See additionally, points 10 and 11 below]. **[Note: Any out of hours requests for zanamivir aqueous solution should be notified to the hospital pharmacy team through the usual pharmacy on call / residency arrangements as soon as possible and by close of play the next working day at the latest].**

6. Whilst GSK can be contacted 24 hours a day to discuss medical emergencies, GSK will not despatch outside of the hours 8am-7pm Monday-Friday or 8am-3pm Saturday/Sunday; therefore consideration should be given by the clinical team whether
GSK should be contacted after 7pm Monday-Friday /3pm Saturday/Sunday and before 7am in the morning.

7. GSK will email the relevant paperwork (i.e. UK Specific Physicians Guidance Document; Patient Medication Request Form; UK Specific Adverse Event Reporting Requirements) to the requestor and to the “most senior doctor”.

8. This paperwork **MUST** be completed and signed by the “most senior doctor” managing the care of the patient. **[Note: The “most senior doctor” may be the consultant physician (or surgeon), consultant anaesthetist / intensivist managing the care of the patient or could be a senior trainee (ST grade doctor) or specialty doctor]**.

9. The completed paperwork must be faxed back to GSK with a follow up telephone call, to confirm request.

10. To guarantee same day despatch, hospitals are asked to allow up to 2 hours for processing of their request prior to close of despatch i.e. to send in their requests to GSK by
   a. 5pm Monday – Friday or by
   b. 1pm Saturday and Sunday

11. For requests received by GSK between 5pm-7pm, GSK will make every effort to process the request and despatch supplies, but depending on the time of receipt of the completed documentation, same day despatch cannot be guaranteed.

**Despatch, Delivery and Receipt**

12. Once the relevant paperwork has been completed and confirmed, GSK will despatch via courier, zanamivir aqueous solution to the requesting hospital.
   a. Zanamivir aqueous solution should be delivered direct to the relevant clinical area. This is to ensure a simple and robust logistics solution recognising the variable opening hours of hospital pharmacy departments.
   b. Care must be taken to ensure the delivery details are clear and unambiguous. Zanamivir aqueous solution should **NOT**, for example be delivered to a hospital reception desk.
   c. The clinical area receiving zanamivir aqueous solution should sign for the receipt of the product, retain all paperwork, record the batch number and expiry date and inform the hospital pharmacy team of the delivery by close of play the next working day at the latest.

13. Once despatched, GSK will email the “most senior doctor” named on the patient medication request form and the pharmacy contact name, if provided, with details of the estimated arrival time of the supplies, together with a case report form and serious adverse event forms for collection of outcomes and pharmacovigilance data.
Pharmacovigilance Information

14. Clinical colleagues in conjunction with the hospital pharmacy team MUST provide feedback to GSK to aid pharmacovigilance data collection. The case report form and serious adverse event forms provided in the email confirming the estimated time of arrival of the supplies, should be used for this purpose, as appropriate.