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Health Advisory: Pediatric Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) Suspension Shortage, 13 JAN 2014

Key recommendations for healthcare providers:

- **Be aware that shortages of Tamiflu Oral Suspension have been reported by the manufacturer; Tamiflu 30 mg, 45 mg and 75 mg capsules remain available.**
- **The US FDA has provided guidance for making a liquid Tamiflu formulation from the capsules.**
  - **Pediatric patients >1 year can be dosed correctly using the 30 mg and 45 mg capsules.**
  - **For those patients who cannot swallow capsules, the capsules can be opened and the contents may be mixed with chocolate syrup or some other thick, sweet liquid, as directed by a healthcare professional.**
- **If there is difficulty locating commercial Tamiflu for Oral Suspension, FDA is reminding healthcare professionals of the FDA-approved Instructions for the emergency compounding of an oral suspension from Tamiflu 75 mg capsules. These instructions are in the current package insert and are also posted separately on the manufacturer's website (http://www.tamiflu.com/hcp/resources/hcp_resources_pharmacists.jsp) as *information for healthcare professionals* regarding compounding an oral suspension from Tamiflu 75 mg capsules.**
- **CDC guidance for mixing a Tamiflu suspension is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/mixing_tamiflu_qa.htm**
- **Antiviral treatment should be administered as early as possible for any patient with confirmed or suspected influenza who is hospitalized; has severe, complicated, or progressive illness; or is at higher risk for influenza complications.**
  - **High risk groups include children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and persons with underlying health conditions. Also, American Indians and Alaskan Natives seem to be at higher risk of flu complications.**
  - **Decisions about starting antiviral treatment should not wait for lab confirmation of influenza.**
- **Encourage all persons with influenza-like illness who are at high risk for influenza complications to seek care promptly to determine if treatment with influenza antiviral medications is warranted.**

Background: On JAN 6, 2014, the FDA reported: "*Genentech is experiencing temporary delays in manufacturing of oseltamivir Oral Suspension. A brief shortage of Oral Suspension is expected in early---mid January.Please check with authorized Genentech distributors and retailers for product availability. Genentech expects to have additional supply of Tamiflu for Oral Suspension mid-January 2014".*

For more information:

- **FDA drug shortage info: http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314742.htm#oseltamivir**
- **CDC antiviral drug information, http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm**
- **CDC Influenza Antiviral Medications: Summary for Clinicians (http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm)**
- **People at High Risk of Developing Flu–Related Complications (http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm)**