

## **Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) Antiviral Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis for Influenza in Long Term Care Facilities**

### **Treatment**

- Early antiviral treatment can shorten the duration of illness, prevent hospitalizations, and may reduce the risk of complications from influenza (i.e. pneumonia, respiratory failure, death)
- Antiviral treatment should be started as soon as possible after illness onset, ideally within 48 hours of symptom onset
- All long-term care facility residents who have confirmed or suspected influenza should receive antiviral treatment immediately
- **Decisions about starting antiviral treatment should not wait for laboratory confirmation of influenza**

### **Chemoprophylaxis**

- Approximately 70-90% effective in preventing influenza
- When at least 2 patients are ill with influenza-like illness within 72 hours of each other and at least one resident has laboratory-confirmed influenza: start antiviral chemoprophylaxis for all non-ill residents (including those who received influenza vaccine) and unvaccinated health care personnel
  - May be recommended by Public Health even in the absence of confirmatory testing if more than 1 resident is presenting with acute febrile respiratory illness during a 1 week time span during influenza season. Contact Public Health—Seattle and King County for recommendations: 206-296-4774
- Vaccinated staff can be administered prophylaxis within 2 weeks of influenza vaccination

### **Considerations for Dosages for Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis**

- Some patients might need special dosing for treatment and chemoprophylaxis, for example, patients with renal impairment or end stage renal disease (ESRD)
- Dosing information for clinicians including special dosing considerations is available online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>
- Treatment of influenza is typically for 5 days but longer treatment courses may be considered for patients who remain severely ill after 5 days of treatment
- Chemoprophylaxis in long term care facilities with influenza is typically for a minimum of two weeks and continuing for 1 week after the last onset of illness

**Complete antiviral prescribing guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) available online at:**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>