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Memorandum

To: Local Public Health Agency Administrators

From: Mary J. Jones, BSEMS, MA
Deputy Director

Date: November 19, 2009

Subject: Release of Antiviral Medications from the State Stockpile

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has released antiviral medications from the State stockpile in response to the national shortage of Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension and to provide antiviral medications for utilization by individuals who may be underinsured or uninsured. Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) are responsible for a plan to distribute and dispense the antiviral medications. This may include partnering with local pharmacies and hospitals.

Instructions and supportive documents are posted on the Health Alert Network (HAN) in the Mitigation Measures sub-folder at the following link:

[https://www.iowahealthalert.org/btrs/Documents/Fall%202009%20Novel%20Influenza%20A%20\(H1N1\)/Mitigation%20Measures/Antiviral%20Medications/](https://www.iowahealthalert.org/btrs/Documents/Fall%202009%20Novel%20Influenza%20A%20(H1N1)/Mitigation%20Measures/Antiviral%20Medications/)

Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension

Currently there is a national shortage of commercially available Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension. It is anticipated that this shortage will continue into January 2010. Because of this shortage, IDPH will release all of the Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension from its stockpile. Supportive documentation for the Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension includes:

- Memo from Dr. Quinlisk (November 16, 2009) that explains the use of the suspension for patients 2 years of age or younger
- Memo from IDPH and Iowa Board of Pharmacy (IBP) (November 6, 2009) that explains the medication expiration date and emergency use authorization

Tamiflu[®] Capsules and Relenza[®]

IDPH will be releasing Tamiflu[®] 75mg capsules and Relenza[®] for dispensing to underinsured or uninsured individuals. The following guidelines are being provided to assist in determining the insurance status (underinsured or uninsured) of individuals that may receive antiviral

medications (Tamiflu® capsules and Relenza®) from the state stockpile. There is no expectation that this information be verified prior to dispensing the prescribed medication.

Underinsured:

Underinsured individuals have health insurance but the benefit plan does not include pharmaceuticals, immunizations, covers only select pharmaceuticals or vaccines, or caps the pharmaceutical or vaccine cost at a certain limit.

Insured individuals that have an unmet pharmaceutical or general plan deductible and make a statement of inability to meet the deductible to attain necessary medication or treatment.

Insured individuals that have pharmaceutical or vaccine co-payments and make a statement of inability to pay the co-payment to attain necessary medication or vaccine.

Uninsured:

Individuals that are not covered by any healthcare insurance benefit plan.

Dispensing Antiviral Medications from the State Stockpile

- The storage, prescribing, dispensing, and labeling of all pharmaceuticals from the state stockpile must following all applicable federal and state requirements.
- No fees can be charged for pharmaceuticals received from the state stockpile.
- If a pharmacy dispenses antivirals from the state stockpile they may charge a dispensing fee not to exceed \$4.00.
 - The dispensing fee must be waived for patients who cannot afford the fee.
- Following the dispensing of antivirals from the stockpile, information will need to be entered into the Immunization Registry and Information System (IRIS).

Additional Questions

Additional questions regarding the distribution of antivirals from the state stockpile can be directed to your Regional Epidemiologist or to the IDPH Health Care Provider Call Center (M-F 8:00am – 4:30pm) at 1-877-386-9103