

# Magnolia Health Pharmacy Provider Bulletin



## Tamiflu Fact Sheet

- **Tamiflu (oseltamivir), a prescription drug, is an oral antiviral treatment (not a vaccine) for influenza**, and belongs to a class of medicines called neuraminidase inhibitors (NAI). Tamiflu can be used both for prevention and treatment of influenza.
- Tamiflu is proven to be effective in the treatment and for the prevention of influenza in adults and in children 1 year and older.

Treatment (twice daily dosing for 5 days) and Prophylaxis (once daily dosing for 10 days) Dosing of Oral Tamiflu for Influenza in Pediatric Patients						
Weight (lbs)	Weight (kg)	Treatment Dosing for 5 days	Prophylaxis Dosing for 10 days	Volume of Oral Suspension (6 mg/mL) for each Dose**	Number of Bottles of Oral Suspension to Dispense	Number of Capsules and Strength to Dispense§
Patients from 2 Weeks to less than 1 Year of Age						
Any weight	Any weight	3 mg/kg twice daily	Not applicable*	0.5 mL/kg†	1 bottle	Not applicable
Patients 1 to 12 Years of Age Based on Body Weight						
33 lbs or less	15 kg or less	30 mg twice daily	30 mg once daily	5 mL	1 bottle	10 capsules, 30 mg
33.1 lbs thru 51 lbs	15.1 kg thru 23 kg	45 mg twice daily	45 mg once daily	7.5 mL	2 bottles	10 capsules, 45 mg
51.1 lbs thru 88 lbs	23.1 kg thru 40 kg	60 mg twice daily	60 mg once daily	10 mL	2 bottles	20 capsules, 30 mg
88.1 lbs or more	40.1 kg or more	75 mg twice daily	75 mg once daily	12.5 mL	3 bottles	10 capsules, 75 mg
*Tamiflu is not approved for prophylaxis of patients less than 1 year of age.						
**An oral dosing dispensing device that measures the appropriate volume in mL should be utilized with the oral suspension.						
†For patients less than 1 year of age, provide an appropriate dosing device that can accurately measure and administer small volumes.						
§Oral Suspension is the preferred formulation for patients who cannot swallow capsules.						

- DC does not recommend widespread or routine use of antiviral medications for chemoprophylaxis so as to limit the possibilities that antiviral resistant viruses could emerge. Indiscriminate use of chemoprophylaxis might promote resistance to antiviral medications, or reduce antiviral medication availability for treatment of persons at higher risk for influenza complications or those who are severely ill. **Prophylaxis with antiviral medications is recommended for:**
  - *Postexposure prophylaxis for family members and close contacts at high-risk of influenza complications*
  - *Prevention for unvaccinated family members who are likely to have ongoing, close exposure to unvaccinated children at high risk (including infants and toddlers younger than 2 years of age) of influenza complications.*
  - *Prevention for people at high risk for complications from influenza who cannot receive influenza vaccine due to a contraindication after exposure to an infectious person.*
- Adverse events: nausea, vomiting. Post marketing reports of serious skin reactions and sporadic, transient neuropsychiatric events (self-injury or delirium; mainly reported among Japanese adolescents and adults) have been observed.
- Emergency Compounding of an Oral Suspension from Tamiflu 75-mg Capsules (Final Concentration 6 mg/mL) should only be used during emergency situations and are not intended to be used if the FDA-approved, commercially manufactured Tamiflu for Oral Suspension is readily available from wholesalers or the manufacturer. Compounding an oral suspension with this procedure will provide 1 patient with enough medication for a 5-day course of treatment or a 10-day course of prophylaxis.

**Treatment must commence within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms for full efficacy.**



**Magnolia Health Contact Information**  
Magnolia Health Plan Pharmacy Department  
Ph.: 1-866-912-6285  
Fax: 1-866-595-8117