



Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Advisory*

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NY State Offers Free Influenza Antiviral Medication For Uninsured and Under-Insured

Date: January 28, 2010 - 2 pm

Please Distribute to: Healthcare Providers, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care, and Infection Control.

SUMMARY:

- **NYS Antiviral Distribution Program for uninsured and under-insured individuals has distributed oseltamivir and zanamivir to retail pharmacies in the area.**
- **Uninsured/Under-insured patients may receive antiviral medications from these pharmacies at no charge for influenza treatment.**
- **This offer does not apply to patients on Medicaid/Medicare**
- **Prescription required with Medical provider noting "Dispense from NYS Stockpile" on the prescription.**

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), in cooperation with pharmacy and other healthcare partners, has activated a program to provide affordable antiviral medications to members of the public that otherwise could not afford its retail cost. This effort involves the distribution of antiviral medication to retail pharmacies, certain federally qualified health centers, and a limited number of other health clinics within New York State (outside of NYC). Uninsured and under-insured patients who are deemed by a clinician to require antiviral treatment (oseltamivir or zanamivir) for influenza may acquire these medications at no charge with the exception of a \$5.00 dispensing fee. Individuals that cannot afford this fee may request that it be waived. Detailed information about this program is available at: http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/public/free_antiviral_medicines/2009-12-04_h1n1_antivirals_notice_to_provider.htm.

The following antiviral medications are available: Oseltamivir (75 mg; 45 mg; 30 mg), Oseltamivir suspension; and Zanamivir 5 mg. Participating pharmacies are not required to provide compounding services but may opt to do so at no cost to the consumer. Pharmacies include: Duane Reade, Hannafords, Kinney Drugs, Price Chopper, Rite Aid, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, and Wegmans.

Detailed information about this program is available at:

http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/public/free_antiviral_medicines/

***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Dutchess County Department of Health

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