



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases

Summary of Recommendations on Antiviral Stockpiling for Influenza Pandemics

Antivirals are available for treatment and prophylaxis against influenza infection and scientific evidence showed that some antivirals are effective against infection with influenza viruses. While there is no guarantee that existing antivirals would be effective against a novel influenza strain that emerges in the next pandemic, advance stockpiling of antivirals is justified to ensure their availability during a pandemic.

2. The two locally registered neuraminidase inhibitors, namely oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza), can be recommended in an antiviral stockpile. Oseltamivir, which is administered orally, can be given both for prophylaxis and treatment; while zanamivir, which is administered inhalationally, may be considered in treating patients without pre-existing airway diseases.

3. Based on review of the scientific literature and the practices of other developed countries, the Government is advised to continue to stockpile antivirals for both treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis purpose in anticipation of the next influenza pandemic.

4. Due to the unpredictability of any future pandemic strain, antiviral resistance of existing influenza strains with pandemic potential should be monitored. Besides, the progress of development and availability of other antivirals should be monitored closely.



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The Centre for Health

Protection is a

professional arm of the

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disease prevention and

control

Centre for Health Protection
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