



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

While there is no guarantee that existing antivirals would be effective against a novel influenza strain that appears in the next pandemic, advance stockpiling of antivirals is justified to ensure their availability during a pandemic.

2. Both oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) can be recommended in an antiviral stockpile. Oseltamivir can be given both for prophylaxis and treatment; while zanamivir may be considered in those without pre-existing airway disease in exceptional circumstances. Oseltamivir is given orally while zanamivir is administered inhalationally. The latter has relatively low systemic bioavailability.

3. Since the supply of antivirals is not unlimited, some form of priority setting is required to maximize societal and individual benefit in the event of pandemic influenza. Though priority accorded to each category for administration of antivirals may vary according to circumstances, the options for using antivirals are considered in the following situations:

- (a) treatment for infected patients;
- (b) pre-exposure prophylaxis for healthcare workers and other essential service providers;
- (c) prophylaxis for workers involved in culling operations; and
- (d) post-exposure prophylaxis for contacts.

4. Resistance of novel influenza strains against antivirals should be monitored during a pandemic.



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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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