

To: Clinicians

From: Terry Frankovich, M.D., Medical Director

Re: **Important AntiViral Information**

Date: October 23, 2009

H1N1 influenza is clearly circulating in the community and out-patient/ER visits for influenza-like illness are climbing. Please note the following when prescribing anti-virals for your patients:

- The Michigan Department of Community Health has asked that strategic national stockpile anti-virals now be used for uninsured and under-insured patients. This is a change from the initial directive. Pharmacies carrying SNS anti-virals will be instructed to use commercial stock first for insured patients and bill insurance appropriately.
- Please refer to the CDC guidance when prescribing anti-virals for treatment of patients. H1N1 patients without severe illness, who are otherwise healthy and between the ages of 5 years and 64 years (non-pregnant), are considered to be at lower-risk for serious complications of H1N1 and, in most instances, will not require anti-viral treatment. Hospitalized patients, pregnant women, infants and very young children, adults over 64 and people of any age with certain chronic health conditions are recommended to receive prompt treatment. (guidance at www.cdc.gov/h1n1).
- Again, please refer to CDC guidance regarding prophylaxis of household contacts of individuals with presumed H1N1. Routine prophylaxis of all household contacts is no longer recommended. Prophylaxis may be considered for high-risk household contacts but in many cases may be replaced by close monitoring for symptoms and immediate treatment should symptoms develop.

Although H1N1 resistance to oseltamivir has been infrequent to date, it is a very real concern with influenza. Judicious use of anti-virals is an important means of limiting the development of resistance and will also help to ensure that medication remains available throughout what is likely to be a very long flu season.

Thank you for your help. Please call with questions. 906-482-7382