



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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JAN 22 2009

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE AIR FORCE
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(CLINICAL AND PROGRAM POLICY)

SUBJECT: Interim Policy for the Use of Influenza Antiviral Medications for the
2008-2009 Influenza Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued, "Interim Antiviral Guidance for the 2008-09 Influenza Season," that can be found at (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>). The Military Health System is directed to adhere to this guidance.

Each year seasonal influenza is caused by two influenza A subtypes (H1N1 and H3N2) and a type B. Over the past two years an increasing number of H1N1 viruses have developed resistance to the antiviral medication, oseltamivir. This resistance is limited to H1N1 subtypes. Oseltamivir remains effective for type B influenza viruses and H3N2 subtypes.

Those responsible for providing medical care to patients with suspected influenza infections should review weekly local or State and Department of Defense (DoD) influenza surveillance data to determine which types and subtypes of influenza are circulating in the area.

If antiviral therapy is warranted, consider the use of influenza tests that can distinguish between type A and B influenza. For those patients testing positive for type B influenza, there is no preferred neuraminidase inhibitor. This also applies if confirmatory testing can identify H3N2 infections or if surveillance data indicates that either influenza B viruses or influenza A (H3N2) viruses represent the local circulating virus. Otherwise, patients that test positive for type A influenza and require antiviral therapy, zanamivir alone or oseltamivir with a adamantane, preferably rimantadine, should be used.

HA POLICY: 09-002

The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center will report antiviral resistance patterns as they become available as a component of the DoD global laboratory-based influenza surveillance program report as described in, "Policy Guidance for the Use of Influenza Vaccine for the 2008-2009 Influenza Season." In addition to the customary distribution channels this policy will be posted on www.dod.mil/pandemicflu as will any updates reflecting changing resistance patterns.

My point of contact on this matter is LTC (P) Wayne Hachey, who can be reached at (703) 575-2669, or wayne.hachey@ha.osd.mil.



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cc:
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