

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

**Guidance for Distribution of Oral Antiviral Medications for
Community Pharmacies**

It is recommended that community pharmacies sign a Memorandum of Agreement with local health departments (LHD) within their jurisdiction to assist with the long term dispensing of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)-provided oral antiviral medications, Tamiflu and Relenza, as countermeasures to 2009 Novel H1N1 Influenza.

These countermeasure medications are being provided for free, from the SNS to the LHD, and, therefore, the partner community pharmacy.

Community pharmacies entering into this agreement cannot charge the patient for the cost of this medication.

These medications can only be dispensed from the community pharmacy per medical order (prescription) of a licensed prescriber in the State of Michigan.

The pharmacy will also have a private source inventory of these same medications and the two inventories must be maintained separately.

This SNS inventory is primarily indicated for uninsured or under-insured (with inadequate or no prescription insurance coverage) persons, to ensure that they are able to have access to this medication.

The pharmacy should always attempt to dispense from private stock and determine whether or not the patient's private insurance provides coverage for this medication. If the patient does not have coverage or if the patient states that they cannot afford the prescription co-pay, the SNS-provided countermeasure medications may be utilized.

If a partner pharmacy is uncomfortable with their role in the payment determination for patients, their SNS antiviral inventory should be returned to the LHD.

If a partner pharmacy is dispensing SNS-provided inventory to every patient that presents with a prescription for one of these medications without trying to appropriately contact insurance carriers for payment, their SNS antiviral inventory should be returned to the LHD.