

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

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JAN 22 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Pharmacists and Pharmacies

FROM: Phil Graham
Interim Co-Director, Emergency Management Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

RE: Expiry of Antivirals

Dear Pharmacist/ Pharmacy,

In October 2009, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care distributed a portion of its stockpile of antiviral medications to community pharmacies in order to ensure Ontarians had ready access to influenza treatment during the H1N1 pandemic.

Some of the oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) that was distributed is set to expire in February 2010. It is important that pharmacists carefully check the expiration date of the antivirals from the provincial supply in order to ensure they are not dispensing medication that has expired.

If your pharmacy has any product that is set to expire in February 2010, please call McKesson Canada at 1-800-387-6774 to arrange for a pick-up of the drugs at no cost. If you will no longer have a sufficient quantity of medication from the provincial supply to meet the demand for treatment in your community once you have returned the expiring product, you can also place an order for replacement antivirals with McKesson Canada.

The ministry will be providing direction on what to do with the remaining stock of provincial antivirals in community pharmacies that has not yet been used later in the flu season. For more information on the H1N1 pandemic, please visit www.ontario.ca/flu.

Thanks for your continued support of the pandemic response in Ontario – your assistance in ensuring that individuals have timely access to influenza treatment services has made a huge difference in the lives of many Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Graham', with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Phil Graham

Interim Co-Director, Operations
Emergency Management Branch