

To: Medical Directors of Acute Trusts
Chief Pharmacists of Acute Trusts
A&E Directors
Intensive Care Unit Directors
Critical Care Directors

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Copy: RCP
RCPCH
RCOG
RCGP
BMA
Royal Pharmaceutical Society
British Thoracic Society
All GPs

Gateway Reference Number: 15751

Dear Colleague

Influenza Season 2010/11 – Use of Antiviral Medicines

The most recent surveillance data, which has been assessed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), suggests that the circulation of influenza in the community has now fallen to low levels and, in the view of the HPA, below the level at which the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines on the use of antiviral medicines is triggered.

The use of antiviral medicines for the prevention or treatment of influenza is therefore no longer indicated.

Further information

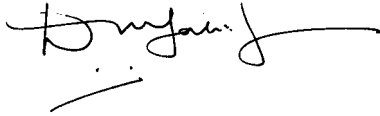
The full NICE guidance on the use of antiviral medicines can be accessed at: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA168> for treatment, and <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA158> for prophylaxis.

Information on the GP consultation rates for influenza-like illness is collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Weekly updates on the consultation rates are published on the RCGP web-site: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/rsc.aspx

Weekly reports from the Health Protection Agency on current influenza activity can be found on the Health Protection Agency Website:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1287147913271

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Salisbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor D M SALISBURY CB FRCP FRCPC FFPHM
Director of Immunisation