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Tel: 0113 8248777
18 January 2018

Dear Colleagues

RE: Urgent update to the Specialist Medicines Local Enhanced Service

We understand that a number of pharmacies in the South West have experienced some difficulties in obtaining supplies of antiviral medication from their usual wholesalers in order to dispense urgent prescriptions. Although we understand that there is plenty of stock in the supply chain, it is clear that there may have been temporary stock shortages.

As it is important that patients prescribed antivirals commence treatment promptly (within 48hours of onset of symptoms/exposure) we have decided to add these medicines to the Specialist Medicines Local Enhanced Service to ensure that specific pharmacies hold a small stock.

Action

Please ensure that you have the following in stock, and place an order as soon as possible for anything that you do not have in stock. The aim would be to hold stock by Saturday 20 January 2018.

Drug	Form	Strength	Pack Size	Brand	Stock (Packs)
Oseltamivir	Capsules	30mg	10	Tamiflu	8
Oseltamivir	Capsules	45mg	10	Tamiflu	1
Oseltamivir	Capsules	75mg	10	Tamiflu	6
Oseltamivir	Oral Suspension	6mg/ml	65ml	Tamiflu	1
Zanamivir	Inhalation	5mg	20	Relenza	1

Any stock held that is unused and passes its expiry date can be reimbursed in the usual way. Please refer to the local enhanced service documents.

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

If you require any further information please contact us at england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net or alternatively contact me on 0113 8250168.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Hayhurst', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Hayhurst
Head of Pharmacy
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