

Memo

NHS Lanarkshire Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT)

To: All Clinical Staff – Acute Hospitals, NHS Lanarkshire

From: NHS Lanarkshire Antimicrobial Management Team (NHSL AMT)

Date: 12/2024

Subject: **TAMIFLU (OSELTAMIVIR) FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFLUENZA - DOSE ADJUSTMENT ACCORDING TO WEIGHT AND RENAL IMPAIRMENT – IN ADULT PATIENTS**

With the increased number of influenza cases, prescribers should be aware of the following prescribing advice for Tamiflu (Oseltamivir phosphate):

- Tamiflu (Oseltamivir phosphate) should be initiated within 2 days of onset of symptoms of influenza
- Dose adjustments must be made to take account of **low weight** or **impaired renal function**

British National Formulary dosing - treatment of influenza:

➤ **Body weight adjustments:**

Body weight	Recommended dose for treatment
41kg and above	75 mg morning and night for 5 days (10 days if immunocompromised).
24 - 40kg	60 mg every morning and night for 5 days (10 days if immunocompromised).

Accumulation can result in an increase of side effects, including hepatotoxicity (uncommon/rare), vomiting, nausea and headache. Therefore, dose adjustments must be made in cases of renal impairment. Creatinine Clearance (CrCl) can be used to estimate renal function – refer to [NHSL CrCl Cockcroft-Gault calculator](#)

The weight-based dose must be adjusted according to the renal function

Renal Drug Database (RDD) dosing – treatment of influenza¹:

➤ **Renal dose adjustment:**

Creatinine clearance	Recommended dose for treatment
> 30 (ml/min)	Dose as in normal renal function
> 10 to 30 (ml/min)	75mg once a day OR 30 mg (suspension or capsules) morning and night
≤ 10 (ml/min)	75mg as a single dose

Summary

All prescribing clinicians should have an awareness of the dose adjustments required for Tamiflu (Oseltamivir phosphate) to take account of **low weight** or **impaired renal function**.