

**M E M O**

TO: All Medical Staff

FROM: Martha Johnson,  
Director of Pharmacy

DATE: September 15, 2009

SUBJECT: **Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> (oseltamivir phosphate) Suspension Shortage**

**Status of Tamiflu<sup>®</sup>**

According to a press release from Roche Laboratories, Inc. dated September 4, 2009, Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> (oseltamivir phosphate) 12mg/mL oral suspension, 30mg capsules, and 45mg capsules are currently available in limited supplies. Due to the ease of manufacturing the 75mg capsule, the manufacturer has increased production of Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> 75mg capsules in order to maximize the overall availability of Tamiflu<sup>®</sup>. These capsules can be compounded by pharmacy to a 15mg/mL suspension for use in patients unable to swallow capsules. Additional supplies of the oral suspension will be made available by Roche Laboratories in November or December of 2009 and additional supplies of the 30mg and 45mg capsules will be available in late September 2009.

**WakeMed's Stock**

WakeMed buys and receives Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> from Amerisource Bergen Corporation. In August, the pharmacy received 1000 of the 75mg capsules and 26 bottles of suspension. There are currently 550 of the 75mg capsules and 3 bottles of suspension in stock at WakeMed Raleigh. An additional 1000 capsules are expected to be shipped this month. Amerisource Bergen does not have any of the 30mg or 45mg capsules in stock. There are currently 1000 of the 75mg capsules, 40 each of the 30mg and 45mg capsules, and 5 bottles of suspension at WakeMed Cary.

**Other Options**

Alternate therapies to Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> oral suspension:

- Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> 15mg/mL compounded suspension using 75mg capsules
- Tamiflu<sup>®</sup> 30mg and 45mg capsules when available in patients able to swallow capsules
- Relenza<sup>®</sup> (zanamivir) powder for oral inhalation
  - Prophylaxis: ≥5 years old
  - Treatment: ≥7 years old