



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993

April 27, 2009

Richard E. Besser, MD
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, MS D-14
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Besser:

This letter is in response to your request that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issue an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the emergency use of zanamivir inhalation powder for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, pursuant to section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act) (21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3).

On April 26, 2009, pursuant to section 564(b)(1)(C) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1)(C)), the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) determined that a public health emergency exists involving Swine Influenza A that affects or has significant potential to affect national security. Pursuant to section 564(b) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)), and on the basis of such determination, the Secretary of DHHS then declared an emergency justifying the authorization of the emergency use of certain zanamivir products subject to the terms of any authorization issued under section 564(a) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(a)).

Having concluded that the criteria for issuance of this authorization under section 564(c) of the Act (21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)) are met, I am authorizing the emergency use of certain zanamivir products¹ for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, subject to the terms of this authorization.

I. Criteria for Issuance of Authorization

I have concluded that the emergency use of certain zanamivir products for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza meets the criteria for issuance of an authorization under section 564(c) of the Act, because I have concluded that:

- (1) Swine Influenza A can cause influenza, a serious or life-threatening disease or condition;
- (2) based on the totality of scientific evidence available to FDA, it is reasonable to believe that certain zanamivir products may be effective for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, and that the known and potential benefits of certain zanamivir products, when used for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, outweigh the known and potential risks of such products; and

¹ FDA is authorizing the emergency use of Relenza (zanamivir) inhalation powder for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza as described in the scope section of this letter (Section II). For ease of reference, this letter of authorization will use the terms "certain zanamivir product(s)" and "authorized zanamivir product(s)."

- (3) there is no adequate, approved, and available alternative to the emergency use of certain zanamivir products for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza.²

Therefore, I have concluded that the emergency use of certain zanamivir products for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza meets the above statutory criteria for issuance of an authorization.

II. Scope of Authorization

I have concluded, pursuant to section 564(d)(1) of the Act, that the scope of this authorization is limited to the use of authorized zanamivir products for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza for individuals exposed to Swine Influenza A. The emergency use of authorized zanamivir products under this EUA must be consistent with, and may not exceed, the terms of this letter, including the scope and the conditions of authorization set forth below.

The authorized zanamivir products are as follows:

- Relenza (zanamivir) Inhalation Powder

Zanamivir products are approved and indicated for the treatment of uncomplicated acute illness due to influenza A and B virus in adults and pediatric patients 7 years of age and older who have been symptomatic for no more than 2 days. Zanamivir products are also approved and indicated for prophylaxis of influenza in adults and pediatric patients 5 years of age and older.³

1. The above zanamivir products are authorized for use at later time points (i.e., patients who are symptomatic for more than 2 days) and/or in patients sick enough to require hospitalization (i.e., patients who do not have “uncomplicated acute illness” per se).
2. The above zanamivir products labeled consistent with the manufacturer’s label are authorized to be distributed under this EUA. Such products are authorized to be distributed or dispensed without the requisite prescription label information under section 503(b)(2) of the Act (e.g., name and address of dispenser, serial number, date of prescription or of its filling, name of prescriber, name of patient, if stated on prescription, directions for use and cautionary statements, if contained in the prescription).

² No other criteria of issuance have been prescribed by regulation under section 564(c)(4) of the Act.

³ Zanamivir products are not recommended for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza in individuals with underlying airways disease (such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) due to risk of serious bronchospasm. Zanamivir products have not been proven effective for treatment of influenza in individuals with underlying airways disease. Zanamivir products have not been proven effective for prophylaxis of influenza in the nursing home setting. Zanamivir products are not a substitute for early vaccination on an annual basis as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Influenza viruses change over time. Emergence of resistance mutations could decrease drug effectiveness. Other factors (for example, changes in viral virulence) might also diminish clinical benefit of antiviral drugs. Prescribers should consider available information on influenza drug susceptibility patterns and treatment effects when deciding whether to use zanamivir products. There is no evidence for efficacy of zanamivir in any illness caused by agents other than Influenza A and B. Patients should be advised that the use of zanamivir products for treatment of influenza has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of influenza to others.

3. The above zanamivir products are authorized to be accompanied by the following written information pertaining to the emergency use, which are authorized to be made available to health care providers⁴ and recipients:

- Fact Sheet for Health Care Provider
- Fact Sheet for Recipients

CDC and the appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) are also authorized to make available additional information relating to the emergency use of authorized zanamivir products that is consistent with, and does not exceed, the terms of this letter of authorization. (See section IV).

I have concluded, pursuant to section 564(d)(2) of the Act, that it is reasonable to believe that the known and potential benefits of authorized zanamivir products, when used for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, outweigh the known and potential risks of such products.

I have concluded, pursuant to section 564(d)(3) of the Act, based on the totality of scientific evidence available to FDA, that it is reasonable to believe that the authorized zanamivir products may be effective for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza pursuant to section 564(c)(2)(A) of the Act. FDA has reviewed the scientific information available, including the information supporting the conclusions described in Section I above, and concludes that the authorized zanamivir products, when used for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza in the specified population, meet the criteria set forth in section 564(c) of the Act concerning safety and potential effectiveness.

Subject to the terms of this EUA and under the circumstances set forth in the Secretary of DHHS's determination under section 564(b)(1)(C) described above and the Secretary of DHHS's corresponding declaration under section 564(b)(1), the zanamivir products described above are authorized for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza for individuals exposed to Swine Influenza A.

This EUA will cease to be effective when the declaration of emergency is terminated under section 564(b)(2) of the Act or when the EUA is revoked under section 564(g) of the Act.

III. Current Good Manufacturing Practice

I am waiving current good manufacturing practice requirements with respect to the holding of authorized zanamivir products by CDC and other public health authority(ies) for a period of ninety days.

⁴ It is possible that public health officials or other volunteers might distribute authorized zanamivir products to recipients, if permitted, in accordance with applicable state and local law and/or in accordance with the public health and medical emergency response of the Authority Having Jurisdiction to prescribe, administer, deliver, distribute, or dispense the covered countermeasures, and their officials, agents, employees, contractors, or volunteers following a declaration of an emergency. For ease of reference, this letter will use the term "health care provider(s)" to refer collectively to these individuals.

IV. Conditions of Authorization

Pursuant to section 564 of the Act, I am establishing the following conditions on this authorization:

CDC

- A. CDC will verify that authorized zanamivir products distributed to the Receive, Stage, Storage (RSS) sites are within their labeled expiration dates.
- B. CDC will ensure that the appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) are informed of this EUA, including the terms and conditions herein.
- C. CDC will make available to the appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) through appropriate means the authorized Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers, authorized Fact Sheet for Recipients, and at least one representative FDA-approved package insert that covers the dosage forms and strengths of authorized zanamivir products.
- D. Only CDC may request changes to the authorized Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers and authorized Fact Sheet for Recipients. Such requests will be made by contacting FDA concerning FDA review and approval.

State and/or Local Public Health Authority(ies)

- E. The appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) will ensure that authorized zanamivir products are distributed to recipients in accordance with applicable state and local laws and/or in accordance with the public health and medical emergency response of the Authority Having Jurisdiction to prescribe, administer, deliver, distribute, or dispense the covered countermeasures, and their officials, agents, employees, contractors, or volunteers following a declaration of an emergency.
- F. The appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) will make available through appropriate means authorized Fact Sheets for Health Care Providers, authorized Fact Sheets for Recipients, and at least one representative FDA-approved package insert that covers the dosage forms and strengths of authorized zanamivir products.

CDC and State and/or Local Public Health Authority(ies)

- G. CDC and the appropriate state and/or local public health authority(ies) are also authorized to make available additional information relating to the emergency use of authorized zanamivir products that is consistent with, and does not exceed, the terms of this letter of authorization.

The emergency use of authorized zanamivir products as described in this letter of authorization must comply with the conditions above and all other terms of this authorization.

V. Duration of Authorization

This EUA will be effective until the declaration of emergency is terminated under section 564(b)(2) of the Act or the EUA is revoked under section 564(g) of the Act.

Joshua M. Sharfstein 4.27.09
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Principal Deputy Commissioner
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs