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Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

January 17, 2018

Important Notice: Temporary Formulary Override for Brand Tamiflu Medications (Medi-Cal Members)

Dear IEHP Pharmacy Provider,

The influenza season in California has begun with the influenza A (H3N2) virus predominant so far. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has recently issued a Clinical Advisory on the 2017-2018 influenza season, and a summary of recommendations on the availability of antiviral agents for influenza.

According to CDPH, there have been reports of patients unable to obtain influenza antivirals at their local pharmacy. There have also been reports that some wholesalers are unable to fulfill orders of antivirals. Although there does not appear to be a statewide or nationwide antiviral shortage, there have been reports of local shortages.

To ensure IEHP Members are not impacted by local shortages and until local pharmacies have a sufficient supply of influenza antivirals available, **IEHP will temporarily allow brand name Tamiflu to process for Medi-Cal members within allowed quantity limits at Point-of-Sale, without requiring a Prior Authorization request, effective on January 17, 2018.**

Brand Drug Name	Quantity Limit	Medi-Cal Line of Business: Temporary Brand Override Effective Date
Tamiflu 30mg capsule	20 capsules per 180 days	January 17, 2018
Tamiflu 45mg capsule	10 capsules per 180 days	
Tamiflu 75mg capsule	10 capsules per 180 days	
Tamiflu 6mg/mL oral suspension	180 mL per 180 days	

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049 between 8:00 AM -5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services

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Reference:

1. Clinical Advisory (January 2, 2018) Influenza. California Department of Public Health. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/FluClinicianAdvisory2017-12.pdf>. Accessed January 16, 2018
2. Antiviral Agents for Influenza: Availability and Summary of Recommendations. California Department of Public Health. http://pharmacy.ca.gov/about/cdph_flu_update.pdf. Accessed January 16, 2018

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