



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

September 9, 2009

GUIDANCE FOR COMPOUNDING OF TAMIFLU® CAPSULES

This fall, and possibly for an undetermined period of time, the oral antiviral countermeasure Tamiflu® may be used extensively in the treatment or prophylaxis of persons exposed to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza virus. Strategic National Stockpile and state of Michigan stockpiles of this medication are now staged at local health departments, retail pharmacies, and hospitals around the state in preparation of this anticipated response.

While this medication is very safe for most of the population, it does require accurate calculation of the correct dose, and the pharmaceutical compounding of that dose for persons weighing less than 89 pounds. This compounding is made even more important by the fact that the pediatric population that falls into this weight category tends to be more sensitive to vomiting and mild neurological symptoms as side effects to Tamiflu® administration.

There is currently no standing law or statute that prohibits a licensed physician, who has a drug control license, from following the FDA-approved compounding instructions that are listed in the Tamiflu® package insert. However, it is the opinion of the Michigan Department of Community Health that this practice should be completed by a pharmacist. Pharmacists are best prepared, at this time, to provide this service for public health and to their pediatric patients due to the level of competence and skill achieved by the pharmacy profession through education and extensive experience in compounding medications into liquid formulations.