



Dear Colleagues

SEASONAL INFLUENZA: PRESCRIBING OF ANTIVIRALS 2024-25

This communication follows SGHD/CMO(2024)20, which issued on 03 December 2024 advising that antiviral medicines (specifically oseltamivir and zanamivir) could be prescribed to treat influenza where clinically indicated, and in particular, among those vulnerable to severe disease or presenting with severe infection / symptoms.

The Seasonal Flu Vaccination programme came to a close on 31 March 2025. In addition to this, Public Health Scotland (PHS) has confirmed that the circulation of flu virus in the community has remained at baseline levels for some time. Further information is available [here](#).

Therefore, this letter is to advise that the routine prescribing of antivirals for influenza by GPs in the community should now cease.

This means:

- GPs and other prescribers working in primary care should not prescribe antivirals for the prevention or treatment of influenza on a GP10 prescription form; and
- Community pharmacists should not supply antiviral medicines in primary care on presentation of a GP10 prescription form.

This advice does not impact on prescribing of antivirals in hospitals or as advised by NHS Public Health Department health protection teams for the management of incidents / outbreaks of influenza. We would be grateful if you could cascade this letter for immediate action as appropriate.

We thank you for your continued support.

**From Chief Medical Officer
Chief Pharmaceutical
Officer**

Professor Sir Gregor Smith
Professor Alison Strath

20 May 2025

SGHD/CMO (2025)8

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Primary Care Leads, NHS Boards
Directors of Nursing & Midwifery, NHS Boards
Chief Officers of Integration Authorities
Directors of Pharmacy
Directors of Public Health
General practitioners

Immunisation Co-ordinators
CPHMs
Scottish Ambulance Service

For information

Chairs, NHS Boards
Practice Nurses
Chief Executives, Local Authorities

Infectious Disease Consultants
Consultant Physicians
Public Health Scotland
Chief Executive, Public Health Scotland,
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Community Pharmacy Scotland

Further Enquiries

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Yours sincerely,

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