

Pharmacy Announcement

Tamiflu Potential Dosing Errors

First Health Services would like to alert providers of a recent Public Health Alert issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding potential dosing errors with Tamiflu (oseltamivir).

Please read the following information and pass along to all pertinent medical and billing staff.

From the FDA website, www.fda.gov: *"U.S. health care providers usually write prescriptions for liquid medicines in milliliters (mL) or teaspoons, while Tamiflu is dosed in milligrams (mg). The dosing dispenser packaged with Tamiflu has markings only in 30, 45 and 60 mg. The Agency has received reports of errors where dosing instructions for the patient do not match the dosing dispenser"*.

Health care providers should write doses in mg if the dosing dispenser with the drug is in mg. Pharmacists should ensure that the units of measure on the prescription instructions match the dosing device provided with the drug."

For more information from the FDA including a dosage chart for children, go to <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/ucm183649.htm>