

Swine flu clinical package

Introduction

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Department of Health Gateway number: 11843

The Swine Flu Clinical Package contains seven tools:

- 1 Swine Flu Paediatric Community Assessment Tool (Paediatric CAT)
- 2 Swine Flu Adult Community Assessment Tool (Adult CAT)
- 3 Swine Flu Paediatric Hospital Pathways
- 4 Swine Flu Adult Hospital Pathways
- 5 Community to Hospital Referral Form
- 6 GP authorisation voucher for liquid oseltamivir for children under 1 year old
- 7 GP authorisation voucher for oseltamivir capsules and zanamivir dry powder for inhalation for adults and children over 1 year old.

It is accepted that not all healthcare and investigational facilities will be available at all times. The tools are designed to allow for this.

Community Assessment Tools

The Community Assessment Tools (CATs) have been developed to support front-line healthcare professionals in deciding which children and adults are most likely to benefit from hospital treatment in a flu pandemic. CATs provide a framework for consistent decision-making in a range of situations when resources are limited. CATs are not specific to flu, but their criteria address the most likely modes of critical illness arising from flu, or the complications of flu. The CATs have been developed by paediatric and adult expert Clinical Development Groups drawing on the nationally accepted clinical evidence that supports the recognition of severe illness. The relevant professional bodies nominated the Development Groups' members.¹ The Development Groups achieved consensus in a process supported by the Department of Health.

The CATs are intended to be used by GPs and other regulated healthcare professionals (midwives, health visitors, school nurses, community nurses, ambulance crew, emergency department nurses and doctors).

The CATs are locked documents (PDFs) and should not be altered except to change scale, e.g. to fit a pocket or para-bag.

NB: The CATs are for use for patients with acute feverish or flu-like illness; patients who clearly need an alternative pathway (such as chest pain, stroke or acute abdomen) should follow that pathway.

¹ The following organisations nominated experts to the Paediatric (p) and Adult (a) Clinical Development Groups: The Royal College of General Practitioners (a, p), The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (p), The Royal College of Physicians (a), The Royal College of Midwives (p), The Royal College of Nursing (a, p), The College of Emergency Medicine (a, p), Unite/The Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (p), The British Medical Association (a, p), and The Directors of Clinical Care of UK Ambulance Trusts (a, p).

Hospital Pathways

The Hospital Pathways are based on those developed and adopted for use in NHS North West. The Emergency Department triage sections of the Hospital Pathways are harmonised with the CATs and Community to Hospital Referral Form to prevent referral loops. The Hospital Pathways are provided as templates in PDF format. The PDF template is the source document endorsed by the expert bodies as indicated on the document.

Adaptation of the PDF document should only be made with the authority of Trusts' medical directors to reflect individual Trusts' policy decisions in accordance with their clinical governance procedures.

Community to Hospital Referral Form

Patients who meet referral criteria should be referred to the nearest general hospital Emergency Department using the Community to Hospital Referral Form. This form has been endorsed by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association.

GP authorisation vouchers for liquid oseltamivir and zanamivir

The authorisation vouchers have been reviewed by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association.

GP authorisation voucher for liquid oseltamivir for children under 1 year old

Young children are considered to be at particular risk of severe influenza and the complications of influenza. Children under 1 year old with flu-like symptoms will be seen and assessed by GPs or appropriately trained and experienced regulated healthcare professionals. Liquid oseltamivir will be supplied at Antiviral Collection Points only upon presentation of this voucher as evidence of clinical assessment. The voucher is evidence of clinical assessment and indicates the dose of oseltamivir for the identified child.

GP authorisation voucher for antiviral medicines for adults and children over 1 year old

- For oseltamivir capsules for adults and children over 1 year old.
- For zanamivir by powder inhaler for adults and children over 5 years old who are able to use the powder inhaler.

This authorisation voucher provides a means for the GP to use their clinical judgement to authorise antiviral medicine in exceptional and special circumstances.

All pregnant women and patients who regularly attend a specialist renal failure clinic should be offered the zanamivir powder inhaler unless they have a contraindication to its use.

Whereas Community Assessment Tools and Hospital Pathways will be available on the DH website, the Community to Hospital Referral Form and GP authorisation vouchers will be distributed separately, targeting frontline healthcare workers.



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