

# **Neuraminidase inhibitors (Oseltamivir - Tamiflu<sup>®</sup>) Fact Sheet**

## **JHH Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control**

Oseltamivir is an anti-viral medication which prevents the influenza A and B virus replication.

### **When do we use Oseltamivir?**

The drug is used to prevent and or treat early influenza. It is used to prevent transmission of influenza in outbreaks and may given to persons who cannot receive the vaccine.

### **How effective is Oseltamivir?**

Oseltamivir is 92% effective in preventing illness and 76-92% preventing febrile influenza when given prophylactically. If used for treatment, it should be given within 48 hours of symptom onset. Oseltamivir can be given with the flu vaccine. Oseltamivir decreases the severity, the incidence of complications and duration of influenza (by 1 day) if given within 48 hours of developing symptoms. It also decreases the duration a person sheds influenza virus.

### **What are the side effects of Oseltamivir?**

Side effects are rare and include nausea and vomiting

### **What is the dose of Oseltamivir?**

When used for treatment, the dose is 75 mg by mouth twice a day. When used for prophylaxis, the dose is 75 mg by mouth once a day.

### **Who cannot take Oseltamivir?**

There are limited data about the use of neuraminidase inhibitors during pregnancy.