

**PRACTICAL PEARLS: Antiviral Rx for FLU**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Febrile, systemic respiratory viral illnesses peak in mid to late winter</li> <li>• Promote yearly influenza vaccination for patients, families, and health care workers in your offices: 2016-2017</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/current.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/current.htm</a></p>
<b>INITIAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT BY PRIMARY CARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis is based on clinical symptoms during the late fall-winter and can be confirmed by rapid nasal swab PCR testing</li> <li>• Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) is approved for treatment of influenza in children 2 weeks of age or older.</li> <li>• Antiviral drugs work best if started within 48 hrs of onset of symptoms</li> <li>• Consider treatment for youngest and oldest ages who are susceptible to more severe disease, hospitalizations and complications, all children &lt;2 years, pregnant women, and complex medical conditions</li> <li>• Consider treatment for any child in a home with a sibling &lt;6 months of age, or a family member with underlying medical conditions that predispose to flu complications</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm</a></p>
<b>WHEN TO REFER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about who should receive influenza antivirals for seasonal prophylaxis, or treatment in special circumstances</li> <li>• Concern for severe infection or bacterial superinfection, especially in immunocompromised patients</li> </ul>
<b>HOW TO REFER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 794-KIDS – Request Pediatric Infectious Diseases appointments</li> <li>• For urgent access, please call the Pedi ID doctor on call</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BAYSTATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL VISIT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current patient information and pertinent medical records should be provided</li> <li>• Other referrals or possible inpatient admission may be recommended</li> </ul>

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