
VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Treatment of Patients with Influenza with Antiviral Medications

TREAT ALL HIGH-RISK PATIENTS AND ALL HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS with suspected or confirmed influenza with a neuraminidase inhibitor (Tamiflu®, Relenza® or RapiVab®), including those with severe, complicated, or progressive illness.

Patients at high risk for influenza complications (hospitalized or outpatient) include:

- Children younger than 2 years;
Although all children younger than 5 years are considered at higher risk for complications from influenza, the highest risk is for those younger than age 2 years
- Persons with chronic medical conditions (including asthma);
- Persons with immunosuppression;
- Persons younger than 19 years on long-term aspirin therapy;
- Persons who are morbidly obese;
- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Pregnant or postpartum women;
- Adults aged 65 years and older; and
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities.

◆ **START ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT** as soon as possible after illness onset for high risk and hospitalized patients – do not wait for results of testing.

◆ Although ideally, treatment should be initiated within 48 hours of symptom onset, **TREATMENT INITIATED LATER THAN 48 HOURS CAN STILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR SOME PATIENTS.**

◆ Treatment with antiviral medication is an important **adjunct** to annual influenza vaccination.

ENSURE ALL OF YOUR PATIENTS AGED 6 MONTHS AND OLDER ARE VACCINATED.

