



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE SWINE FLU OUTBREAK**

As you are aware, there have been several reported cases of human infections with swine flu, including a case in Ohio. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency and the CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the agency's response to the emerging health threat.

According to the CDC, the swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses that have been detected in the US are resistant to amantadine and rimantadine. Lab tests, however, show the viruses to be susceptible to oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza).

Because of the potential seriousness of the situation, the need to start treatment early in the illness and the resistance to common antiviral drugs, Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc. (Molina) has decided to automatically authorize any prescription for Tamiflu and Relenza. If you prescribe either of these drugs for your patients, you do not need to provide clinical information; the prescription will serve as the prior authorization request and approval will be given at the pharmacy. This policy is temporary and will be in effect while we all learn more about the extent of the outbreak and the severity of the disease.

We at Molina hope that this policy helps you treat your patients more efficiently and eases some of the anxiety that this outbreak has caused. If you have any questions about this, or any other policy, please call me at 614-781-4327.

Kevin M. Smith, MD, MBA  
Chief Medical Officer  
Molina Healthcare of Ohio  
614-781-4327