



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE SWINE FLU OUTBREAK

As you all know, there has been a recent outbreak of swine flu and the WHO has raised its worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 5.

Because of the general level of public concern and the fact that the CDC has determined that the swine-origin influenza virus is resistant to adamantane antiviral medications, Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc. (Molina) has made the following decision regarding prior authorization (PA) for certain antiviral medications:

Effective immediately, Molina will automatically authorize any prescription for oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza). A prescription for either of these drugs will serve as the PA request and that request will be automatically approved at the pharmacy. No additional information needs to be submitted to Molina.

This PA process will be in effect for 4 weeks (through May 31) and will be reevaluated at that time, based on the extent of the outbreak and severity of the disease.

Information on the diagnosis, testing and treatment of swine flu is available on the Centers for Disease Control web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. Current recommendations include:

- Clinicians should consider testing suspected cases of swine flu, especially those with severe illness, by obtaining an upper respiratory specimen. Specimens should be tested by the state public health laboratory.
- Antiviral treatment should be considered for confirmed, probable or suspected cases. Priority for antiviral treatment should be given to hospitalized patients and patients at higher risk for influenza complications.
- Antiviral chemoprophylaxis is recommended for:
 - Household close contacts of a confirmed or probable case, if the contacts are high risk for complications of influenza and
 - Health care workers or public health workers who were not using appropriate personal protective equipment during close contact with an ill confirmed, probable, or suspect case.

Updates and more detailed information can be found at the CDC web site.

At Molina, we hope this information is helpful and eases some of the anxiety that this outbreak has caused. Thank you for helping us serve the Medicaid recipients of Ohio.