
From:

Sent: 24 December 2009 11:54

To: Hill, Suzanne Rose

Subject: Re: Emergency Session of Expert Committee

Dear Suzanne

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, not only on formal grounds, but because this means that I wish you the best forever.

Please tell me if I can do something with respect to the antivirals and the emergency session of the EC on Selection and Use of EM. I am concerned that if any of these drugs is included in the EM List, the concept of EM itself will suffer. Neuraminidase inhibitors are basically irrelevant medicines. As you may be aware, Fiona Godlee noted in an editorial of the 12 December issue of the BMJ that we would have needed greater transparency in oseltamivir evaluation, in particular in the evaluation of the results of clinical trials. Given the lack of any clinical efficacy in otherwise healthy people and that there are substantially no data on people with risk factors for complications, I think that including oseltamivir in the EM list would be the end of the essential medicines concept by WHO.

Kind regards