
From:
Sent: mardi 12 janvier 2010 20:04
To: Hill, Suzanne Rose
Subject: RE: Emergency Session of Expert Committee
Importance: High

Emergency Session of Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines: comments on the inclusions of oseltamivir, zanamivir, amantadine and rimantadine on the EML Emergency update – Jan 2010

Given the data available, and particularly the lack of specific, independent and convincing evidence for the pandemic influenza strains, there is strictly speaking limited reason to modify the decision taken by the EML Expert Committee during its March 2009 meeting.

Several new elements could be taken into account:

- Antiviral treatment is recommended in many countries for treatment and even for prophylaxis in contacts despite the lack of strong evidence.
- The current pandemic is not as severe as feared, in terms of number of cases and in terms of severity of cases.
- There is also growing resistance of viruses to oseltamivir both for seasonal influenza and H1N1 pandemic influenza.

In case of a more severe pandemic especially in terms of case fatality, the international medical and public health community cannot be left without any potential tool that could help in the fight against the disease. The first measures in response to a potential influenza pandemic should be vaccination, and the respect of the general infection control measures, but antiviral treatment even of modest efficacy could be of help.

If the decision is taken by the Expert Committee to include one of the antivirals in the EML, it should be oseltamivir as a representative of the class of neuraminidase inhibitors (with a square box).