

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** December 8, 2022  
**Re:** Addressing Medication Shortages During Surge in Respiratory Illnesses

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The ongoing shortage of pediatric medications including oseltamivir suspension, amoxicillin and acetaminophen requires all pharmacists to make their best effort in helping families get the drug therapy they need for their child.

This includes:

- Prescribing a therapeutic substitution for antibiotic prescriptions. For clarity, the substitution can be from another class of anti-infectives. Consult [IWK Firstline](#) for alternatives. **Note:** It is generally not necessary to contact the prescriber to prescribe an alternative antibiotic.
- Dispensing adult preparations, if dose is appropriate, with instruction on how to administer for children (e.g., opening capsules and mixing into liquid or food, etc.).
- Compounding oseltamivir suspension\* or assisting the family in finding a pharmacy that can compound this time-sensitive medication without delay. **Note:** Pharmacies will see an increase in prescribing for oseltamivir during the current surge in viral illness.
- Assisting families in finding another pharmacy where they can obtain the medication. **Resource:** [PANS Where can I find Oseltamivir in Stock?](#)
- \* Formulas for compounding an oseltamivir suspension can be found in the Canadian product monographs for both [Tamiflu®](#) and oseltamivir supplied by [Natco Pharma \(Canada\) Inc.](#)