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HRH The Princess Royal

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NICE Technology Appraisal: Oseltamivir, amantadine and zanamivir for the prophylaxis of influenza – Appraisal Consultation Document

Thank you for inviting the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to comment on the above ACD. Please find our comments below.

The document appears to be comprehensive, and the interpretations and recommendations appear reasonable. However, without a full reference list it is hard to be certain all the evidence has been appraised.

What is completely lacking is any recommendation (either clinical or research) about young children; particularly infants <12 months of age for whom there is no neuraminidase licensed, and children who are unable to take oral or inhaled medication. Although this appraisal is for prophylaxis with antiviral agents, for those in whom none of the agents in question is either licensed or appropriate, alternative recommendations should be made available (i.e. ensuring that appropriate vaccination advice is followed for risk groups, or ensuring that a research recommendation for alternatives for these groups are actively sought).

For infants there are published data on oseltamivir to support further research. The RCPCH is disappointed that where specific trials of drugs in children have taken place (as in 4.1.1 and 4.1.10) the findings relative to children have not been detailed.

The RCPCH also recommend a research recommendation is made regarding alternative methods of administering zanamivir so that it can be administered to younger children (<5 years).

With thanks to:

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