

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

5-11 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SH

Telephone: (020) 7092 6165/66 Fax: (020) 7092 6194 E-mail: clinical.effectiveness@rcpch.ac.uk

Website: www.rcpch.ac.uk

PATRON HRH The Princess Royal

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NICE Technology Appraisal: Oseltamivir, amantadine and zanamivir for the treatment 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.

Because of licensing restrictions children under the age of 1 cannot be treated with one of the drugs and children under the age of 5 cannot be treated with the other. Because of a lack of information about effectiveness and/or side-effects in these groups 'at-risk' children may not derive potential benefit. Babies and young children with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as CF and bronchiectsis, or sickle cell disease, will not be offered drug treatment for influenza-type illnesses. Some of these children may have recently arrived in the UK and not have received immunisation. The College believes that they will therefore not have equal access to a potentially beneficial treatment.

Registered Charity in England and Wales: 1057744 Registered Charity in Scotland: SC038299