



# The GeriJournal

Volume 1, Number 2

October 2006

*A publication of GeriatRx Pharmacy*

## GeriatRx Staff Update

GeriatRx Pharmacy is growing, and so is the size of our staff. We are pleased to welcome Preet Dhatt, and Jennifer Choi to the GeriatRx fold.

Preet is an exceptional professional pharmacist who has worked with Shoppers Drug Mart for ten years. She has three young children, and a positive, relaxed demeanor.

Jennifer is a versatile technician who has worked in LTC pharmacy for a number of years. She is particularly adept at Automated machine operation, pouch checking, and data entry. She is also busy at home, with two young children to look after.

Both Preet and Jennifer will help to fortify our remarkable team, as we continue to ensure that you receive the finest possible service.

## Tamiflu Dosing

Influenza season is approaching, and we are beginning to field questions about Tamiflu use. Please see Section 6.06 of the *GeriatRx Policy & Procedure Manual*



for details on the steps to take when an Influenza outbreak is suspected.

It is very important to identify all residents with serum creatinine levels of 150µmol/L or greater. These residents, usually 5 – 10% of your resident population, require reduced doses of Tamiflu.

The chart below lists the October, 2004 MOH Guidelines for Tamiflu dosing. Weight and gender are no longer required to determine Tamiflu dosage.

PROPHYLACTIC DOSAGE	
No known renal disease or serum creatinine <150µmol/L	75mg once daily until outbreak is declared over
Known renal disease and serum creatinine >150µmol/L	75mg once daily for 5 days, stop for 5 days, then repeat cycle until outbreak is declared over

TREATMENT DOSAGE	
No known renal disease or serum creatinine <150µmol/L	75mg BID (twice daily) for 5 days
Known renal disease and serum creatinine >150µmol/L	75mg daily for 5 days
If on dialysis and serum creatinine is >250µmol/L	75mg daily for 2 days

## Vaxigrip and Fluzone

GeriatRx will be pleased to provide a double set of labels (one for each resident MAR and chart) for your Influenza vaccination orders. The labels will read *Vaxigrip/Fluzone; inject 0.5cc i.m. into the deltoid ud.* Please contact us

if you would like these sent to your facility.

## Product Availability

Bactroban ointment continues to be unavailable. Please ask your physician to order Bactroban cream in its place when treating MRSA. When treating other Gram positive infections, consider Fucidin (or Polysporin) ointment. The ointment base will improve product retention in difficult areas (such as the perineum in incontinent residents).

## Therapeutics

The Canadian Urological Association has released new guidelines for the management of urinary incontinence. The principle medications to be used are long-acting anticholinergic drugs. These include Detrol LA, and Ditropan XL.

The short-acting forms of these medications used to be the mainstay of treatment, but are often not well tolerated. Confusion, constipation and dry mouth are reported far more frequently when these regular release products are used.

*Prepared by Randy Goodman  
Certified Geriatric Pharmacist*

