

Potential Supply Constraints for Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) Suspension

For the current status of drug shortages and discontinuations, refer to Drug Shortages Canada at www.drugshortagescanada.ca.

With the increase in cases of influenza, demand for oseltamivir suspension has increased. In anticipation of potential supply constraints in the coming weeks, efforts should be made to conserve suspension supply where possible.

The document is designed to support health professionals in managing patients prescribed oseltamivir in case of supply issues with the suspension formulation. It is not intended as a comprehensive review or clinical practice guideline.

TABLE 1: Oseltamivir suspension products marketed in Canada¹

Product	Strength	DIN	Manufacturer
Nat-Oseltamivir	6 mg/mL	02499894	Natco Pharma
Tamiflu	6 mg/mL	02381842	Hoffmann-La Roche

Health Canada–approved indications for oseltamivir:²

- Treatment of uncomplicated acute illness due to influenza in patients 1 year and older who have been symptomatic for no more than 2 days
- Prevention of influenza illness in patients 1 year and older following close contact with an infected individual

Management strategies:

Oseltamivir capsules remain readily available. Conservation measures are recommended to ensure continued access to oral suspension for patients with the greatest clinical need.

Pharmacy teams and prescribers are asked to consider the following measures:

- Continue to recommend influenza vaccine as the most effective way to prevent influenza and its complications.³
- Reserve use of oseltamivir for patients who are in high-risk groups or who are severely ill.^{4,5}
- Conserve oseltamivir oral suspension for patients who are unable to swallow solid dosage forms.
- Use oseltamivir capsules whenever possible:



- Capsules may be opened and mixed with sweetened liquids such as regular or sugar-free chocolate syrup.
- For children old enough to safely swallow capsules, the 30 and 45 mg capsules are available.
- During the shortage, compounding an oral suspension from capsules may be considered if no other options are available. Refer to the Emergency Compounding section of the Nat-Osetamivir product monograph for directions.⁶

References

1. Health Canada. *Drug product database online query* [internet]. Available from: <https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/> Accessed December 19, 2025.
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3. Public Health Agency of Canada. *An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS). National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2025-2026* [internet]. April 30, 2025. Available from: www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-2025-2026.html. Accessed December 19, 2025.
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5. Johal, A. *Influenza* [internet]. September 29, 2025. Available from: <https://cps.pharmacists.ca>. Subscription required. Accessed December 19, 2025.
6. Natco Pharma (Canada) Inc. *Nat-Osetamivir* [product monograph]. September 18, 2020. Available from: https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00057921.PDF. Accessed December 19, 2025.