

MEMORANDUM

From: Director, EPR

To: Director, PSM

Date: 6 March 2007

Our ref:

Attention: Dr Suzanne Hill, PSM

Your ref:

Through:

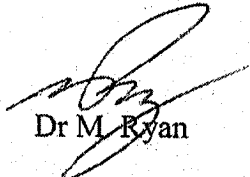
Originator: Dr K. Fukuda

Subject: **POSSIBILITY OF INCLUSION OF
INFLUENZA-SPECIFIC ANTIVIRALS TO
THE MODEL LIST**

WHO has been receiving queries from Member States and partners whether it is planning to include influenza-specific antiviral agents in the Model List because of Member State concerns about the spread of avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses and the related concerns about the possibility of an influenza pandemic. Currently, influenza antiviral drugs have an important role in the national pandemic preparedness plans of many countries.

The Global Influenza Programme, WHO, believes it would be useful if the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines considers, before an influenza pandemic occurs, the situation and possibility of adding influenza-specific antiviral agents such as neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir and zanamivir) and M2 inhibitors (amantadine and rimantadine) to the Model List. Such an action might help resource-limited countries to have increased accessibility to influenza-specific antiviral agents in the advent of a pandemic.

We thank you for your support.


Dr M. Ryan