

# State of Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network Guidance Document



## To Register with the Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network

Email: [SNS.Response@tn.gov](mailto:SNS.Response@tn.gov)

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# Executive Summary

## **Background Information**

The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic has created a higher demand for antiviral medications such as Tamiflu® and Relenza®. The State of Tennessee will release antiviral medications from the state's cache to increase access for the uninsured and under-insured.

## **Antiviral Distribution Network**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is developing an Antiviral Distribution Network as a primary mechanism for distribution of the state's emergency cache of antiviral medications. Community pharmacies will play a key role in the effective distribution of these antiviral medications.

## **All Community Pharmacies Are Encouraged to Participate**

All community pharmacies are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network. The main considerations for selecting which specific pharmacy stores within each community will receive TDH Stockpile will be geographic location, population demographics, and the distribution and severity of disease. The goal is to create a network that will enhance distribution and convenience to Tennesseans through a balance of community and independent pharmacy partners. All participating community pharmacies will be required to sign a no-cost contract with the TDH.

## **Distribution of Antiviral Medications**

The antiviral medications will be distributed to participating pharmacies from the State to pre-determined and agreed upon ship-to locations. The TDH will retain ultimate control of when and how much inventory is released from the state's antiviral cache.

## **Dispensing of Antiviral Medications**

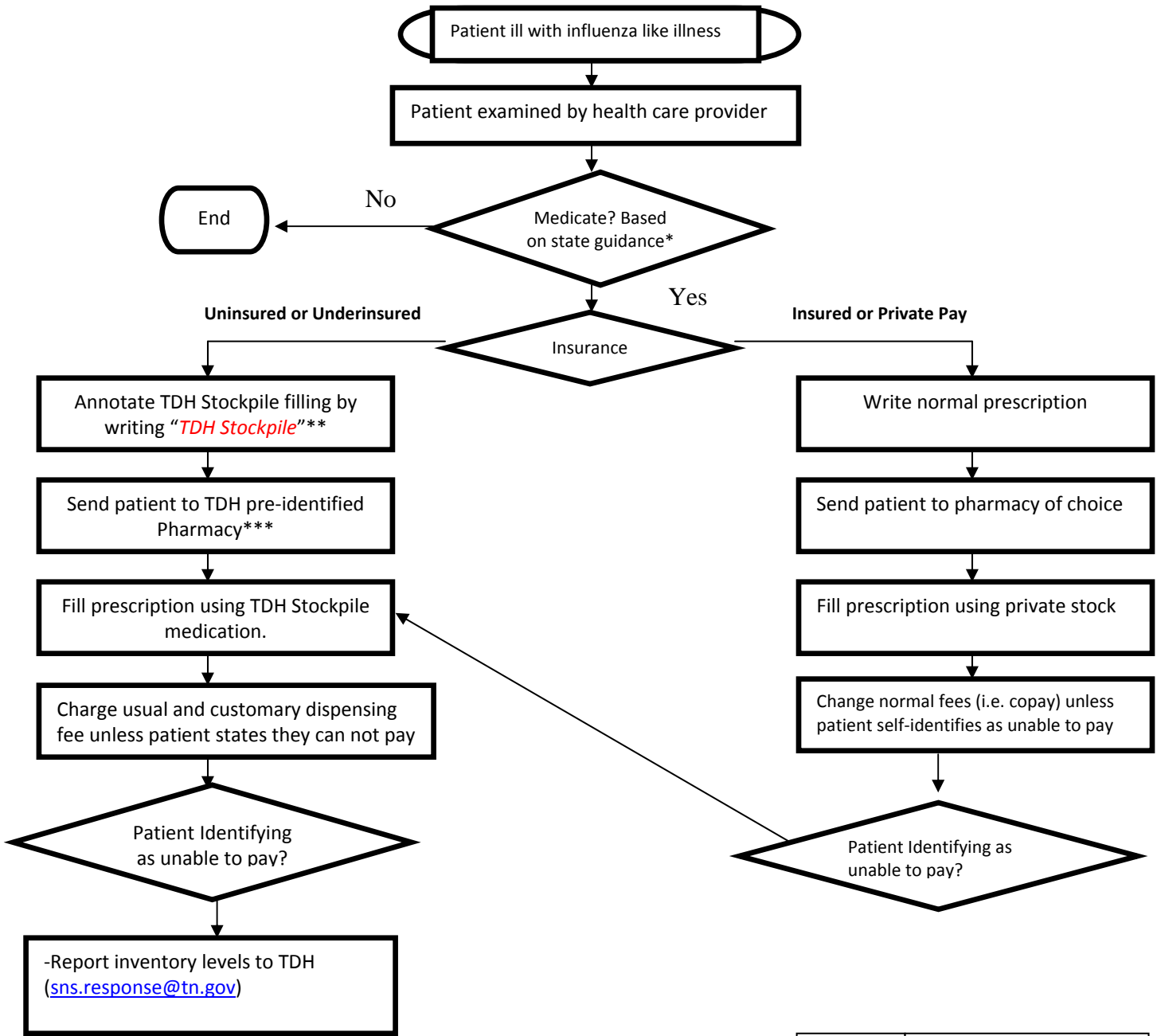
The dispensing of TDH Stockpile antiviral medications from the pharmacies will be accomplished using the traditional medical model. Patients will obtain prescriptions from prescribing medical providers and then take the prescriptions to participating pharmacies in order to receive medications from the state's antiviral cache. Patients who have valid prescriptions specifying TDH Stockpile may be dispensed medication from the state's antiviral cache. Likewise, should a patient or a patient's caregiver express that the patient cannot pay for the medication; the pharmacy may dispense medication from the state's antiviral cache.

## **Conditions of Participation for Pharmacies**

- The participating pharmacies will receive the antiviral medications from the state's antiviral cache at no charge.
- These antiviral medications will be dispensed at no charge to patients who present valid prescriptions.
- A usual and customary dispensing fee may be charged by the dispensing pharmacy to the patient.
- Should the patient or patient's caregiver express that the patient cannot pay the dispensing fee, the pharmacy shall not charge the dispensing fee.
- The participating pharmacies will maintain the TDH Stockpile inventory of antivirals physically separate from the community pharmacy's inventory.
- The participating pharmacies will maintain the TDH Stockpile of antivirals in a safe and secure location during distribution, storage, and dispensing.
- Participating pharmacies will need to submit reports about quantities of TDH Stockpile antiviral medication dispensed and on-hand.

***Confidentiality:** All information provided by the Tennessee Department of Health regarding TDH Stockpile antiviral medications is strictly confidential. This includes, but is not limited to, any information about TDH Stockpile antiviral medication supply, storage, distribution, and dispensing. All information provided by participating community pharmacies (i.e. levels of TDH Stockpile dispensed and on-hand, distribution channels, etc.) will remain strictly confidential. This information will only be shared with key emergency response professionals and will be done so under strict confidence.*

## Prescribing and Dispensing TDH Stockpile Antiviral Medications



\* Clinical guidance can be found at [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health)  
 \*\* Instructions on writing prescriptions to be filled from the TDH Stockpile will be provided to healthcare providers by TDH  
 \*\*\* Pharmacy referral information will be provided to health care providers by TDH.

	Event triggering the process
	Task
	Decision Box
	End of Process

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## THE TENNESSEE ANTIVIRAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

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### **TASK: Distribution and Re-supply of State Owned or Controlled Antiviral Medication**

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The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) considers the use of antiviral medications as one component of a comprehensive containment and treatment plan to assist in the control of an outbreak of a novel influenza virus, such as the H1N1 influenza virus. The TDH has a limited supply of antiviral medication in a state stockpile (referred to as “TDH Stockpile”) comprised of purchases made using general revenue, purchases made using federal preparedness funds, and antiviral medication received as the Tennessee portion of the federal Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Since the allocated amount of antiviral medications is small compared to the Tennessee population, individuals and entities in need of antiviral medications are encouraged to obtain materials through normal channels in the marketplace as they would have prior to this response. The antiviral medication in the TDH Stockpile is intended to meet three primary goals: serving the uninsured and under-insured, public health measures and outbreak control, and stopgap measures in the event of routine supply channels breaking down. The primary purposes of the TDH Stockpile and the mechanism for distribution and re-supply of antiviral medications are documented within this plan.

#### **Three Primary Purposes of TDH Stockpile Antiviral Medication**

1. **Uninsured and Under-insured-** TDH Stockpile antiviral medications can be used for uninsured or under-insured individuals who otherwise would not be able to purchase the antiviral medication they are prescribed.
2. **Public Health Measures-** TDH Stockpile antiviral medications can be used for outbreak control when deemed a necessary public health measure by the TDH.
3. **Supply Disruption-** TDH Stockpile antiviral medications can be used to meet immediate health care entity needs due to supplier disruption or unavailability.

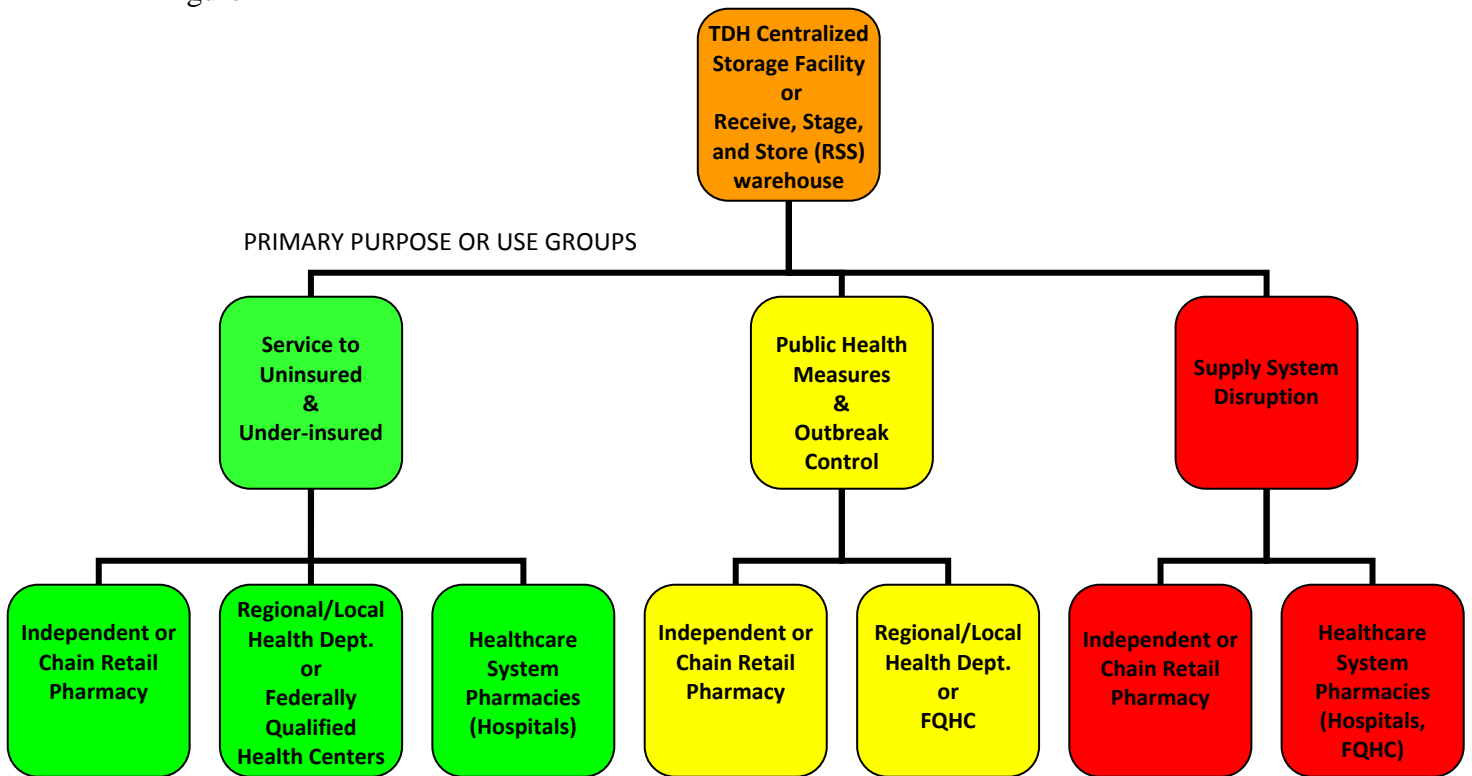
#### **Assumptions Used to Determine Distribution Mechanisms**

1. There is a limited supply of TDH Stockpile antiviral medications.
2. The number of receiving entities, will be limited to avoid depleting resources, establishing and maintaining a manageable scope and distribution network throughout this plan.
3. The TDH will work to establish a network of pharmacies capable of servicing citizens across the entire State of Tennessee.
4. The TDH may utilize state assets for the distribution of the antiviral medications from centralized storage or receiving facilities to pre-identified pharmacy locations throughout the State of Tennessee.
5. In all settings, healthcare providers should act as the gatekeeper to determine which individuals receive a TDH Stockpile prescription based on need. Clinical guidance regarding antiviral recommendations is available on the TDH web site [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health). Providers should regularly check this site for up-to-date information.

**Mechanisms for Distributing and Temporary Storage of the TDH Stockpile**

The TDH Stockpile antiviral medications are stored in a secured centralized storage facility or receive, stage, and store (RSS) warehouse from which distributions are made. The TDH will send a limited initial shipment of TDH Stockpile antiviral medications to pre-identified locations. TDH will request that pharmacy chain stores identify one centralized ship-to site to take receipt of these medications. From these sites, the pharmacy chain stores will use existing mechanisms to distribute medication through their network of pharmacy locations. Additional shipments may be targeted, based on outages or other guidance from the TDH.

Figure 1



## **Process for Dispensing State Owned Antiviral Medications through Pharmacies**

The following is the process the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) will use to dispense state antiviral medications through pharmacies during the H1N1 influenza virus response efforts.

### **Assumptions**

1. The antiviral medications in the TDH Stockpile are intended to meet gaps that may not be addressed through normal channels and in particular the needs of the uninsured or under-insured populations.
2. Healthcare providers will follow the federal guidance for clinicians posted on the TDH website ([www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health)) for determining when to provide antiviral medications. This document will be updated regularly as needed.
3. Healthcare providers will follow guidance they receive from TDH to determine who is specifically eligible for TDH Stockpile antiviral medications.
4. Healthcare providers will write a prescription that identifies the patient needs their prescription dispensed from TDH Stockpile. Information about how to write a prescription for TDH Stockpile will be communicated to healthcare providers through the TDH.
5. Healthcare providers will refer a patient who needs/qualifies for TDH Stockpile antiviral medication to a TDH pre-identified pharmacy. Healthcare providers will be informed of the TDH participating pharmacies in their area that carry TDH Stockpile antiviral medication. Healthcare providers will receive this communication from TDH and collaborating medical associations.

### **Initial Supply of TDH Stockpile Antiviral Medications to Pharmacies**

1. Pharmacy Contractors and the TDH, in partnership, will determine which pharmacy locations will be participating and which counties will be served.
2. The TDH will deliver/ship an initial supply of TDH Stockpile antiviral medications to each participating pre-identified pharmacy. Initial stocking level to be shipped to each location will be determined by TDH. The determination will be based on a number of factors including geography and population.
3. Inventory levels and usage rates will be monitored by TDH through reports provided to the Tennessee Department for Public Health, monthly at a minimum.

## **Process for Dispensing State Owned Antiviral Medications through Pharmacies (Continued)**

### **Intended Use of TDH Stockpile Antiviral Medications**

1. TDH Stockpile antiviral medications are intended to serve the uninsured and under-insured who otherwise could not afford the cost of the antiviral medication they have been prescribed. The TDH Stockpile may also be used to supplement temporary shortages of commercial stocks or be used as outbreak control measures. Both of these measures will only be executed under direction of TDH.
2. The use of TDH Stockpile at retail pharmacies is reserved only for patients who present a healthcare provider's prescription that identifies the client as needing to have his/her prescription dispensed from the TDH Stockpile.
3. If a patient with a regular prescription for antiviral medication states he/she cannot afford private stock price, a pharmacy can dispense from the TDH Stockpile.
4. Pharmacies are allowed to charge a usual and customary dispensing fee to the patient to offset their costs on prescriptions filled by TDH Stockpile. Should the patient or patient's caregiver express that the patient cannot pay the dispensing fee, the Contractor shall not charge the fee.

### **Reporting Requirements**

1. Inventory Updates: Each participating pharmacy contractor will be asked to provide an inventory report every Tuesday by 12pm to [sns.response@tn.gov](mailto:sns.response@tn.gov) or by fax 615-741-3857 listing the specific inventory of TDH Stockpile in the pharmacy store. TDH will provide a template for this report. TDH is developing a web-based system to automate the reporting requirement of the contract. When this web-based system is operational, you will be notified and given instructions on how to register and report inventories.

Note: the reporting schedule may be changed, if necessary.

### **Control and Monitoring Use of State Owned Cache:**

In an effort to control and monitor for proper use and dispensing of the state owned cache prescribers will identify on the prescription "TDH Stockpile" which will alert the participating pre-identified pharmacies to utilize the state cache.

**Sample Prescription**



Sample Name, M.D.  
1234 Main st.  
Treatment, TN 37243  
Phone: 615-555-5555

Drug: Tamiflu 75mg capsules (**TDH Stockpile**)

Sig: Take one capsule by mouth every 12 hours for five days

Quantity: 10 capsules

No refills

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Signature  
(dispense as written)

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Signature  
(substitution allowed)