

FDA expands tamiflu use to treat babies under one year old

December 22 2012



Tamiflu can now be given to children as young as 2 weeks old under an expanded approval announced Friday by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(HealthDay)—Tamiflu (oseltamivir) can now be given to children as young as 2 weeks old under an expanded approval announced Friday by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Tamiflu can be used as treatment in children aged 2 weeks to 1 year if they have had [flu symptoms](#) for no longer than two days. The drug is not approved to prevent flu in these children and the safety and effectiveness of Tamiflu in children younger than 2 weeks of age has not been established.

While there are fixed dosing regimens for children 1 year and older according to weight categories, dosing for children younger than 1 year must be calculated individually based on exact weight, the FDA stressed. Children 2 weeks to 1 year of age should receive 3 milligrams per

kilogram of weight twice daily for five days.

"Pharmacists must provide the proper dispenser when filling a prescription so parents can measure and administer the correct dose to their children," Edward Cox, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Office of [Antimicrobial Products](#) in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in an FDA news release.

More information: [More Information](#)

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