



Memorandum

To: All Providers
From: Lawrence Kay, MD, Senior Medical Director
Date: 5/5/09
Subject: **Swine Flu**

Due to the recent concerns about swine flu currently in the media, AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan would like to inform our providers about the current CDC recommendations for the management of patients suspected of contracting swine flu.

If swine flu is suspected, providers should obtain a respiratory swab for swine flu influenza testing and place it in a refrigerator (not a freezer). Once the specimen is collected, the provider should contact their state or local health department to facilitate transport and timely diagnosis at a state public health laboratory. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is available at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/site/default.asp>

If swine flu is confirmed and medication treatment is required, PerformRx would like to inform providers that per the AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan formulary, Tamiflu and Relenza are covered without Prior Authorization for one five-day treatment course every six months.

If an additional supply is required, please contact PerformRx for assistance at 1-866-610-2774.

Additional information regarding swine influenza may be found at the CDC Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

We will be continually monitoring the situation and hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call 1-866-610-2774 to speak with one of our clinical pharmacists. As always, your continued support is greatly appreciated.