



Factsheet

Roche takes steps to assist pandemic

3 September 2009

Roche, the manufacturer of the oral influenza antiviral Tamiflu, has been working for many years with multiple stakeholders to strengthen global pandemic preparedness.

Key outcomes to date include the following:

Ensuring a sustainable supply of Tamiflu

- **270 million** packs of Tamiflu have already been delivered to 96 governments
- **400 million** packs (4 billion capsules) per year can be produced when production reaches maximum output by early 2010, if required
- **19 external contractors** from around the world appointed to produce substantial quantities of materials in the supply chain required to produce Tamiflu, as well as finished product

Increasing access to Tamiflu

- **Differentiated pricing policy** for governments for capsules & Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)
- **Shelf-life extended from 5 to 7 years** in a number of markets including US and Europe
- **Smaller capsules** developed for children
- **Reprocessing expired capsules** through a method being developed to extract the active pharmaceutical ingredient and repackage the content to 're-set the clock' for shelf life
- **Provision of stability data** to governments to help them extend the shelf life of their stockpiles

Support for developing countries

- **No patents are held for Tamiflu** in the world's Least Developed Countries including the African sub-continent
- **Tiered pricing policy** distinguishing between developed and developing countries
- **Tamiflu Reserves Program** provides Tamiflu and storage of pandemic stockpiles for developing countries at a significantly reduced price
- **Sub-licences** granted to 3 manufacturers (Hetero, Shanghai Pharma and HEC) to produce generic Tamiflu (oseltamivir) for pandemic use in China, India and developing countries
- **Knowledge transfer** granted to a South African manufacturer, Aspen Pharmaceuticals, to produce oseltamivir for pandemic use in Africa
- **A donation of 5 million packs** to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2005 and 2006, which the WHO has deployed to 71 countries plus Mexico
- **A further donation of 5.65 million packs** announced in 2009 to replenish the WHO stockpile, including 650,000 courses of small capsules for children

Contributing to scientific knowledge

- **Diagnostic kit** developed for detecting the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus by Roche Applied Science
- **Clinical studies and pharmacovigilance activities** in place to collect data on the use of Tamiflu in the current pandemic situation