



Frequently asked questions about Relenza

From the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

What is Relenza used for? Relenza is used to treat illness due to flu virus in people 7 years and older who show flu symptoms for no more than 2 days. Relenza is also used to reduce the chance of getting influenza illness, in people 5 years and older.

Special Warnings with Relenza:

- Some patients have had wheezing or serious breathing problems when they used Relenza. Many but not all of these patients had previous asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Relenza has not been shown to shorten the duration of flu in people with these diseases, and as a result Relenza is not generally recommended for people with these conditions.
- If you have lung disease you should have a fast-acting inhaled bronchodilator available while being treated with Relenza. If your breathing worsens, stop using Relenza and call your health care provider.

General Precautions with Relenza:

- Treating flu illness with Relenza has not been shown to decrease the risk of transmitting the virus to others.
- Relenza has not been shown to treat flu-like illnesses caused by any virus other than influenza A and B
- Stop taking Relenza and contact your health care provider if you experience signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction such as shortness of breath, swelling of eyelids, face, or lips or a skin rash.
- Contact your health care provider if you feel worse or develop new symptoms during or after treatment, or if your flu symptoms do not start to get better.
- Taking Relenza should not affect your decision to have an annual flu shot.

What should I tell my doctor or health care provider? Tell your health care provider if you:

- are taking any other medications
- have chronic lung disease such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- are trying to become pregnant, are already pregnant, or are breast-feeding.
- What are some possible side effects of Relenza? (*This list is NOT a complete list*) Side effects may include: Headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, nasal irritation, bronchitis, cough, sinus inflammation, ear, nose and throat infections and dizziness

For more information about the flu, precautions, good hygiene and other health information for you and your family, visit us on the web at:

www.bhsj.org

Or contact us at any of our 4 office locations at:

Coldwater
517-279-9561 x 143

Hillsdale
517-437-7395 x 107

Sturgis
269-659-4013 x 109

Three Rivers
269-273-2161 x 241