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The failure of conventional or scientific medicine?

See [www.nhs-conmed.co.uk](http://www.nhs-conmed.co.uk)

## **Press Release**

### **10 August 2009**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **Tamiflu – why no honesty?**

The limited effectiveness, and adverse reactions of Tamiflu, particularly amongst younger people, have been known about since 2005, particularly from Japan. The dangers identified included severe, sometimes fatal skin and allergic reactions, anaphylactic shock causing 3 deaths, and 12 or more cases of death caused by ‘neuropsychiatric’ events (which included erratic behaviors, hallucination, and self-harm). Therefore, the BMJ’s research should have been no surprise to anyone. Yet the government and the NHS have presented Tamiflu to the public as an effective and safe response to influenza, initially without any mention about either its limitations, or more seriously, the known dangers of the drug.

Equally important, and perhaps more alarming, is the media’s approach to this situation. Steve Scrutton, Media Director of the Alliance of Registered Homeopaths, has asked two fundamental questions of the media handling of this issue.

- Why did the popular media, without exception, completely ignore reporting on the well-known limitations and dangers of Tamiflu?
- And why is the popular media always so apparently content to present drugs like Tamiflu, and many other conventional drugs, as 'miracle cures', every time they are asked to do so by the drug companies?

The Tamiflu situation also raises several fundamental questions about public health and the information available to patients.

- Why are patients expected to take conventional medication, like Tamiflu, without being fully informed about the possible adverse reactions?
- Can the public rely on the NHS, or the media, to tell them about the dangers of conventional drugs before they are prescribed, and prior to them doing harm?
- And most important, have drug companies become so powerful that no-one is now able to criticise them, even when the drugs they are marketing are suspected to be causing serious disease, and death?

The Tamiflu situation highlights issues of basic openness, honesty, and transparency within the mainstream medical system. The BMJ study has thrown up nothing new, nothing that the public could not have been told about 6 months ago, and long before. The fact that people have only been told at this late stage is deeply worrying.

**ENDS**

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## **THE ALLIANCE OF REGISTERED HOMEOPATHS INFORMATION FOR EDITORS**

The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths (ARH) is a UK professional organisation that supports and promotes a high standard of safe, effective homeopathic practice. It currently represents about 700 practicing homeopaths.

We are committed to:

- ensuring that quality homeopathy is available to all who wish to use it
- raising public awareness of the potential of homeopathic treatment
- encouraging a high standard of education for homeopaths
- supporting the ongoing professional development of our Members
- encouraging co-operation between our Members and other healthcare professionals, for the benefit of patients
- engaging in research, publishing and other activities that enhance our understanding of homeopathy
- acting as an information base for the general public.