Outbreaks

Outbreaks in Long Term Care and Integrated Facilities
Antiviral Use for Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes

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Section: 9-60
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Please see the following pages for the Antiviral use for Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes.
USE OF OSELTAMIVIR (Tamiflu®) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES

Purpose:
To endorse the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI Canada) guidelines on the use of antivirals for influenza in the management of outbreaks in Special Care Homes.

To define the process for reimbursement to pharmacies for oseltamivir prescriptions when provided to residents of special care homes during an influenza outbreak.

Background:
The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provides national guidance on influenza vaccinations (http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/). NACI recommendations inform the Ministry of Health’s provincial influenza immunization strategy.

AMMI Canada produces guidelines on the use of antivirals for influenza (http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines/). Surveillance of antimicrobial resistant patterns contributes to the evidence for the recommendations for the use of specific antivirals in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza. The Ministry of Health supports the AMMI Canada guidelines.

Annual influenza immunization of special care home residents and health care workers remains the cornerstone of influenza prevention. During influenza outbreaks in these settings, antiviral medications for prophylaxis are used to control an outbreak in the facility and not exclusively for the benefit of the individual resident. Chemoprophylaxis combined with antiviral treatment of ill persons plus other measures is recommended for controlling outbreaks of influenza in special care homes.

Expectations for General Infection Control Measures:
Special care homes have appropriate infection prevention and control programs. Refer to Outbreaks in Integrated and Long-term Care Facilities for general infection prevention and control measures as well as other existing policies and guidelines.

Definitions:
The Public Health Agency of Canada FluWatch definitions apply to this policy (http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php)

Eligibility Criteria:
Population Health Branch (PHB) is responsible for the program. Reimbursement for oseltamivir drug coverage will be provided:
• when influenza is lab-confirmed;
• when a Medical Health Officer (MHO) has declared an outbreak;
• when routine and additional infection prevention and control measures are implemented;
• for treatment (5 days) of symptomatic residents in the areas/wards the MHO has designated as having an outbreak;
• for prophylaxis (10 days) of all asymptomatic residents located in the areas/wards the MHO has designated as having an outbreak.
Use of oseltamivir outside of the above criteria is the responsibility of the regional health authority (RHA).

Additional considerations:
- If new cases continue to develop >48 hours after initiation of prophylaxis, further investigation is warranted (Hota, 2007).
- Repeat prescriptions for ongoing outbreaks will only be reimbursed if consultation with the provincial Chief or Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO or DCMHO) supports this measure.
- Consultation with the CMHO or DCMHO is required when coverage is being extended to other parts of the facility:
  i. where new cases of influenza have been identified, or
  ii. where the MHO has confirmed that appropriate infection prevention and control procedures are not likely to be effective in containing the outbreak.

Exclusions:
- Reimbursement for costs of oseltamivir during outbreaks in special care homes, or similar institutions, in First Nations communities is the responsibility of Health Canada.
- The Ministry will not cover the use of zanamivir under this program.
- Oseltamivir prescribed to employees in the facility is the responsibility of the individual or the RHA.
- Antiviral prophylaxis or treatment for in-hospital patients is the responsibility of the RHA.
Procedure When Oseltamivir is a Benefit:

Oseltamivir is listed as a drug benefit under the Ministry of Health’s Drug Plan while influenza is actively circulating in Saskatchewan. Reimbursement to pharmacies is made through the Saskatchewan Drug Plan online computer system. If applicable, the patient co-payment is reimbursed by the Ministry upon receipt of an invoice from the pharmacy.

Step 1: Declaration of an Influenza Outbreak

- The MHO is responsible for notifying the Ministry of Health immediately of suspected and confirmed outbreaks as per the Disease Control Regulations using the Outbreak Notification Report and Summary Form.
- The MHO is responsible for declaring an outbreak; lab confirmation of influenza is required prior to initiating oseltamivir.

Step 2: Implementation of Oseltamivir Use

- In consultation with the attending physician or the employees in charge at the facility, the MHO determines if it is appropriate for oseltamivir to be used for outbreak control and recommends as necessary.
- The facility employees create an “eligibility list” including the names and health registration numbers of the residents of the facility who meet the eligibility criteria to receive oseltamivir prophylaxis or treatment. The eligibility list is sent to the pharmacy for reference.
- Once the MHO has recommended oseltamivir use for the outbreak, the patient’s attending physician makes the decision as to whether any individual resident is treated or provided prophylaxis. The physician is responsible for determining the dosage for each patient for whom the drug is prescribed. The physician(s), who are responsible for prescribing oseltamivir, should be made aware of this protocol and consult the product monograph for more detailed information.
- The employee(s) designated by the facility communicate with and obtain prescriptions for oseltamivir for the residents from their physician(s). The facility should have a consent procedure for residents in place.

Step 3: Notification of the Ministry of Oseltamivir Use

The MHO is responsible for notifying the provincial CMHO or DCMHO, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health of oseltamivir use within one week using the updated Outbreak Notification Report and Summary.

The completed form shall be sent to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health by:

- E-mail - cdc@health.gov.sk.ca
- Add “Tamiflu Use” to the standard e-mail subject line e.g. “Update FHHR-2012-002, Tamiflu use”

The MHO ensures that, in addition to completing all mandatory fields, the Outbreak Notification Report and Summary form also includes the following to facilitate payment:

- The date oseltamivir was started;

http://www.rochecanada.com/portal/ca/consumer_information_2?siteUuid=re7234008&paf_gear_id=45200024&pageId=re7603370&synergyaction=show&paf_dm=full&nodeId=1415-e9b8c703199f11e08386d584fa6c0793
- Number of residents/patients receiving oseltamivir; and
- Name and address of the pharmacy.

Step 4: Monitoring the Outbreak
The MHO is responsible for communicating with the facility during the outbreak to track success of control measures and determine an end date for the outbreak and an end date for the use of oseltamivir. If new cases continue to arise more than 48 hours after initiation of treatment and prophylaxis, further investigation is warranted. A decision about the ongoing use of oseltamivir should be based on results of the investigation.

- Individuals who have completed a 5-day treatment course should not be given additional doses of oseltamivir.
- Residents who have recovered from laboratory confirmed influenza infection during the outbreak do not require oseltamivir prophylaxis.

Step 5: Payment of Oseltamivir
Residents on the eligibility list should not be billed for their co-payment amount related to prescription for oseltamivir that is used in the management of an outbreak.

Population Health Branch reimburses pharmacies directly for the balance that is not covered by the Drug Plan. The pharmacy should fill the prescription and forward an invoice including official prescription receipts and the name of the facility in which the outbreak occurred to:

Vaccine Officer
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory
Ministry of Health
5 Research Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0A4

For veterans prescribed oseltamivir during an outbreak in a special care home, the pharmacy should call Veteran’s Affairs Canada’s (VAC) Special Authorization Unit at 1-888-822-2884 and provide the resident’s identification number (K#). Bill VAC directly online for veterans meeting VAC’s eligibility criteria; if VAC’s criteria are not met an invoice can be sent as above.
Procedure When Oseltamivir is NOT a Benefit:

When influenza is not actively circulating in the population, oseltamivir is not listed as a benefit under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. If an outbreak of influenza occurs in a special care home when oseltamivir is not a benefit, the process outlined below must be followed for reimbursement.

Step 1a: Declaration of an Influenza Outbreak

- The MHO is responsible for notifying the Ministry of Health immediately of suspected and confirmed outbreaks as per the Disease Control Regulations using the Outbreak Notification Report and Summary Form.
- The MHO is responsible for declaring an outbreak; lab confirmation of influenza is required prior to initiating oseltamivir.

ADDITIONAL STEP – Identifying Eligible Residents

- The employees in the facility identify the residents on the affected ward and create an “eligibility list” including the names and health registration numbers of the residents of the facility who meet the eligibility criteria to receive oseltamivir for prophylaxis or treatment.
- This list should be provided to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health as soon as it is available in order to enter Exception Drug Status (EDS) in the Drug Plan database:

  The eligibility list shall be sent to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health by:

  - E-mail - cdc@health.gov.sk.ca
  - Add “Tamiflu Use” to the standard e-mail subject line e.g. “Update FHHR-2012-002, Tamiflu use”

- The designated employee of the facility should provide a copy of this list to the pharmacy involved at the same time.

Step 2: Implementation of Oseltamivir Use

- Once the MHO has recommended oseltamivir use for the outbreak, the patient’s attending physician makes the decision as to whether any individual resident is treated or provided prophylaxis. The physician is responsible for determining the dosage for each patient for whom the drug is prescribed. Physicians should be made aware of this protocol and consult the product monograph for more detailed information.
- The employee(s) designated by the facility communicate with and obtain prescriptions for oseltamivir for the residents from their physician(s).

http://www.rochecanada.com/portal/ca/consumer_information_2?siteUuid=re7234008&paf_gear_id=45200024&pageId=re7603370&synergyaction=show&paf_dm=full&nodeId=1415-e9b8c703199f11e08386d584fa6c0793
Step 3: Notification of the Ministry of Oseltamivir Use
The MHO notifies the provincial CMHO or DCMHO, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health of oseltamivir use within one week via the updated Outbreak Notification Report and Summary.

The completed form shall be sent to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health by:
- E-mail - cdc@health.gov.sk.ca
- Add “Tamiflu Use” to the standard e-mail subject line e.g. “Update FHHR-2012-002, Tamiflu use”

The MHO ensures that, in addition to completing all mandatory fields, the Outbreak Notification Report and Summary form also includes the following:
- The date oseltamivir was started; and
- Number of residents/patients receiving oseltamivir.

Step 4: Monitoring the Outbreak
The MHO is responsible for communicating with the facility during the outbreak to track success of control measures and determine an end date for the outbreak and an end date for the use of oseltamivir. If new cases continue to arise more than 48 hours after initiation of treatment and prophylaxis, further investigation is warranted.

- Individuals who have completed a 5-day treatment course should not be given additional doses of oseltamivir.
- Residents who have recovered from laboratory confirmed influenza infection during the outbreak do not require oseltamivir prophylaxis.

When the CMHO or DCMHO support the ongoing use of oseltamivir following discussion with the MHO, Population Health Branch (PHB) informs the Drug Plan to extend the period of eligibility for EDS as necessary.

Step 5: Payment of Oseltamivir
The Drug Plan processes claims for oseltamivir from pharmacies for prescriptions for the residents on the eligibility list using the Drug Plan’s Exception Drug Status (EDS) payment process. Once EDS is approved, the Drug Plan covers the full cost of the medication.

PHB pays pharmacies directly for the claims of First Nations residents in a regional health authority’s special care home experiencing an outbreak and seeks reimbursement from Health Canada. The pharmacy should fill the prescription and forward an invoice to:

Vaccine Officer
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory
Ministry of Health
5 Research Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0A4

For veterans prescribed oseltamivir during an outbreak in a special care home, the pharmacy should call Veteran’s Affairs Canada’s (VAC) Special Authorization Unit at 1-888-822-2884 and provide the resident’s identification number (K#). Bill VAC directly online for veterans meeting VAC’s eligibility criteria; if VAC’s criteria are not met an invoice can be sent as above.
References:


Appendix 1 - Checklist of Eligibility Criteria

- Laboratory confirmation of influenza received.
- Infection prevention and control measures implemented.
- 5 day treatment initiated for all symptomatic cases within the affected unit/wing.
- 10 day prophylaxis initiated for residents within the affected unit/wing.
- If additional cases continue to occur 48 hours after oseltamivir initiation, additional investigation completed:
  - Additional specimen collection for other infections and influenza virus susceptibility testing.
  - Review of other infection prevention and control measures.
- Consult with the Ministry’s CMHO or DCMHO to extend the use of oseltamivir for outbreaks lasting longer than 10 days.
Quick Reference for Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Use of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) for the Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes – General Process

**FACILITY**
Surveillance identifies cases of influenza-like illness in facility.

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**Medical Health Officer (MHO)**
Regional MHO declares an Influenza Outbreak and immediately notifies the Ministry of Health as per Disease Control Regulations using the Outbreak Notification Report and Summary by e-mail at [cdc@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:cdc@health.gov.sk.ca).
- Send outbreak number to Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory (SDCL)
- Determines if oseltamivir is appropriate in managing the outbreak

**FACILITY**
Facility compiles and sends a legible list of residents on the affected unit/ward to the pharmacy that provides services to facility.

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**MHO**
Notifies Population Health Branch (PHB) of oseltamivir use via Update Outbreak Notification and Summary Report (due within 1 week of initial notification)*

**PHYSICIAN**
Physician writes individualized prescriptions for their clients.

**PHARMACY**
Pharmacy fills prescriptions. Full cost covered by the Ministry of Health:
- The Drug Plan (DPEBB) will reimburse their share to the pharmacy electronically;
- PHB will reimburse for the co-payment amount when the pharmacy submits an invoice (see address in special circumstances)#

The Ministry of Health covers prescription costs for:
- 10-day course for prophylaxis
- 5-day course for treatment

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Special Circumstances:

**First Nations** – Pharmacy fills prescription and forwards invoice directly to Vaccine Officer (see below) who will reimburse the pharmacy.

**Veterans** – Pharmacy to call Veterans’ Affairs Canada (VAC) Special Authorization Unit (1-888-822-2884) for authorization for treatment and prophylaxis. If authorized, bill goes to VAC. If VAC eligibility criteria are not met, submit invoice including original prescription receipts and name of the facility the outbreak occurred in to the Ministry at:

- **Vaccine Officer**
  - Saskatchewan Disease Control Lab
  - Ministry of Health
  - 5 Research Drive
  - REGINA SK S4S 0A4
  - Fax: (306) 787-9576
  - E-mail: [cdc@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:cdc@health.gov.sk.ca)

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*Update Outbreak Notification Report and Summary must include:
- All mandatory fields as well as:
  - Date oseltamivir was started
  - Number of residents receiving oseltamivir
  - Name and address of pharmacy

Add “Tamiflu Use” to e-mail subject line: “Update [Health Region] [Outbreak Number] Tamiflu Use”

Eg. “Update FHHR-2012-002 Tamiflu Use”

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**Outbreak over**

**NO**

**YES – no further action**

Regional MHO conducts further investigation and requests extension of prophylaxis and forwards request to Ministry Chief or Deputy Chief MHO (CMHO/DCMHO)

CMHO/DCMHO approves and forwards notice of approval to Vaccine Officer.

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# When oseltamivir is not a benefit, and the MHO has declared an outbreak in the Special Care Home, the Ministry will process claims using the Drug Plan’s exception status payment process (see Use of Oseltamivir for the Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes).
Quick Reference for Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Use of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) for the Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes – Information for Pharmacies

This document should be used in conjunction with the Quick Reference for Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Use of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) for the Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Special Care Homes – General Process.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The Ministry of Health will reimburse a pharmacy for the full amount of individuals’ prescription of oseltamivir when used for an influenza outbreak declared by the regional Medical Health Officer (MHO) in a Special Care Home and when used within the following parameters:
- Prophylaxis for residents in affected units/wards within 48 hours of onset of illness in an affected unit/ward.
- Treatment for symptomatic residents in affected units/wards if started within 48 hours of symptom onset.

**EXCLUSIONS**

The Ministry of Health will not reimburse pharmacies for oseltamivir prescriptions for:
- Employees in the affected facilities.
- Patients in hospitals including long-term care residents in hospitals.
- Institutions in First Nations communities, as these are the responsibility of Health Canada.
- Patients who are eligible for coverage by Veterans’ Affairs Canada (VAC). These should be billed directly through VAC.

**FACILITY**

Send list of eligible patients to local pharmacy once an outbreak has been declared by the MHO. This is not considered a prescription.

**PHYSICIAN**

Physician writes individual prescriptions. These prescriptions will be sent to the pharmacy.

**PHARMACY**

Fill prescriptions without delay. The list will be used to determine which individuals the pharmacy can bill to Population Health Branch.

**PHARMACY**

Submit claims of the residents’ co-payment amount* to Vaccine Officer** for payment. Include official prescription receipt and name of facility outbreak occurred in.

**Special Circumstances:**

**First Nations** – Pharmacy fills prescription and forwards invoice directly to PHB who will reimburse pharmacy.

**Veterans** – Pharmacy to call Veterans’ Affairs Canada (VAC) Special Authorization Unit (1-888-822-2884) for authorization. If authorization received, the bill goes to VAC. If VAC eligibility criteria are not met, submit invoice to the Ministry at:

Vaccine Officer**
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory
Ministry of Health
5 Research Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0A4
Fax: (306) 787-9576
E-mail: cdc@health.gov.sk.ca

Repeat prescriptions will only be approved for payment if the regional MHO, in consultation with the provincial Chief or Deputy Chief MHO (CMHO/DCMHO), determines that a longer duration is required.

* When oseltamivir is not a benefit, and the MHO has declared an outbreak in the Special Care Home, the Ministry will process claims using the Drug Plan’s Exception Drug Status payment process. (see Use of Oseltamivir for the Management of Outbreaks in Special Care Homes).