

Advance Prescriptions for Prophylactic Antiviral Medication During Influenza Outbreaks

Central Zone Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

Advance Prescriptions

In anticipation of influenza outbreaks occurring in continuing care homes (CCH) and supportive living accommodation (SLA) sites, we are requesting your assistance with providing individuals under your care with advance prophylactic antiviral oseltamivir prescriptions. CCH sites include type B (formerly designated supportive living), type C (formerly hospices), and type A (formerly long term care). SLA sites include lodges, manors, and seniors' residences.

Operators and residents or their alternate decision-makers in CCH type B and SLA sites have been provided with an Advance Prescription for oseltamivir form for your completion and use in arranging a resident prescription at their pharmacy. AHS CCH type A sites utilize their own process; pharmacies of some non-AHS CCH type A sites may make requests to you using a different form.

Oseltamivir Recommendations During Influenza Outbreaks

When an influenza outbreak is declared, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) recommends the following:

- all residents, whether immunized or not, should receive oseltamivir antiviral prophylaxis
- unimmunized staff and healthcare workers (HCWs) should take oseltamivir antiviral prophylaxis

Oseltamivir antiviral prophylaxis prescriptions:

- dosing recommendations are available in the Tamiflu® (Roche Canada) product monograph: https://assets.roche.com/f/173850/x/2a64a4b390/tamiflu_pm_e.pdf
- are made for ten (10) days with two refills for five (5) days each
- remain on-hand at the resident's pharmacy until the MOH declares an influenza outbreak at the resident's site or for one year (whichever comes first)
- are provided at no cost for eligible residents

Eligible for Provincially Funded Antiviral Medication

Residents of SLA as well as CCH type B and type C facilities are eligible for provincially funded antiviral medication during influenza outbreaks as per the *Alberta Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as Applied to Vulnerable Populations Living in Congregate Living Settings*.

Not Eligible for Provincially Funded Antiviral Medication

- residents of CCH type A sites and patients in a hospital
- staff and HCWs in any setting

Although HCWs and staff are **not eligible** for publicly funded antiviral medication under the *Alberta Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as Applied to Vulnerable Populations Living in Congregate Living Settings*, **unimmunized staff should still take antiviral prophylaxis when an outbreak occurs**. Their employer should have a process in place for antiviral prophylaxis through their Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) or Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) department that may direct them to contact a prescriber (physician, nurse practitioner, or prescribing pharmacist) for a prescription.

If you have questions regarding advance prophylactic antiviral prescriptions, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Outbreak Team:

- phone 1-888-552-1919, daily 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

At other times, contact the Central Zone MOH on-call at 403-356-6430.

Thank you for your continued support in protecting the health of our vulnerable populations during influenza season.

