

Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP)

As in past years, pharmacists are invited to participate in the provincially funded Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) as well as the Influenza Antiviral Drug Program (IADP).

Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2014/15 (UIIP)

Pharmacist participation is guided by the *Influenza Immunization Policy*, the Alberta College of Pharmacists *Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians* and the *Standards for the Operation of Licensed Pharmacies* and Ministerial Order 23-2014, the *Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services*.

Several changes made to the UIIP this year apply to pharmacists and pharmacies:

- The Alberta Health *Influenza Immunization Policy* has been updated and covers essential information. It is important that pharmacists review the Policy, which can be found at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.htm>.
- Pharmacists are no longer required to enter into Influenza Vaccine Agreements with Alberta Health Services. Ministerial Order 23/2014, the *Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services*, addresses requirements for UIIP participation and payment of related professional services.
- Publicly-funded influenza vaccine will be available for order by pharmacies via six Alberta pharmacy wholesale distributors: Imperial Distributors Canada Inc., Kohl and Frisch Limited, McKesson Canada, Procurity Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart and Value Drug Mart Associates Ltd. Should pharmacies wish to use Alberta Health Services Non-carbon record (NCR) forms for their patients' immunization records, these may be ordered via the pharmacy wholesale distributors. Details on ordering vaccine and NCR forms will be provided by the distributors.
- Pharmacy wholesale distributors will be tracking the lot numbers of the influenza vaccines sent to individual pharmacies. Pharmacists must continue to enter the lot number of the vaccine administered to an individual, as well as other necessary details on the patient record, as directed in the *Influenza Immunization Policy*.
- The number of PINs to be used by pharmacists has been decreased from eight to four. Linkages of pharmacy claims data with other Alberta Health administrative databases (through secure mechanisms) will enable discernment of patient age and health risk (For example, chronic disease). Therefore, the data collection forms required of pharmacies by Alberta Health Services in past years (for reporting by reason code, the number of doses of vaccine administered and number of doses of vaccine wasted) no longer need to be completed. Only Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) forms and cold chain breaks need to be reported to Alberta Health Services. (Refer to the last page of this Benefact for Public Health contact information.)
- The quantity of vaccines ordered by Alberta Health for all providers is sufficient to immunize 45 per cent of the Alberta population (almost double the amount ordered last year); therefore, there will be ample supply to help ensure that high-risk patients, in particular, are immunized.
- Provincial immunization targets have been increased, including the goal for 100 per cent of healthcare professionals providing influenza immunizations to be immunized. Other targets are listed in the *Influenza Immunization Policy*.

Claims Processes

Pharmacies can begin submitting UIIP service claims through the APHAP on or after September 29th, once they have received the publicly funded vaccines from their pharmacy wholesale distributor, which are projected to arrive as early as the end of September 2014.

For immunization service claims, the individual's Personal Health Number (PHN) will be used to confirm eligibility. Netcare should be accessed to validate PHNs. Incorrect submission of the client information will result in claim rejections of **C8-No record of this beneficiary**. Only claims for Albertans nine years of age and older will be accepted.

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To receive compensation through the APHAP for 2014–2015, all claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claim adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier Code 16 (as the third party plan)
- Group number (for all transactions this must be 23464, Section 000)
- Pharmacy License number
- Pharmacist identification number
- Client number: client's Personal Health Number (PHN)
- Client's full name: last and first name
- Client's date of birth
- Client's gender
- Relationship code: should your software require you enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default
- Prescriber reference ID number
- Service date
- DIN/PIN
- Quantity

The following PINs for reason code identification should be used for pharmacist-administered, provincially-funded influenza vaccines:

05666603 - Healthcare Worker

05666646 - Pregnant Woman

05666647 - FluMist Administered

05666650 - Routine Recommended Immunization

If a client falls under more than one PIN category, use the PIN that appears uppermost in the list. For example, if the client is a pregnant healthcare worker, use PIN 05666603.

FluMist is available for clients 9-17 years of age without any medical contraindication to live vaccine. Ideally, FluMist should only be administered to adults (18 – 59 years of age) who refuse injectable vaccine (if they are needle phobic, for example).

For influenza immunization services claims:

- Only immunization services provided by pharmacists in approved locations and situations are eligible for APHAP compensation. Pharmacist immunization services provided in a workplace and intended for employees of that workplace are not eligible. Associated fees are the responsibility of the employer. (Refer to the Guidance for pharmacists on service delivery of the influenza vaccine on page 4).
- Pharmacists may not delegate the administration of UIIP influenza vaccines to other healthcare professionals (paid or volunteer).
- In the case of immunization services for injectable influenza vaccines, only claims from pharmacists authorized by the Alberta College of Pharmacists to administer drugs/vaccines by injection are eligible for payment. Claims for FluMist do not require this same authorization.
- The license number of the pharmacist with authorization to administer drugs/vaccines by injection should be entered in the prescriber ID number field when an injectable vaccine is administered.
- One (1) should be entered for quantity.
- Charges of up to \$20 per injectable or intranasal influenza immunization service may be claimed.
- "86" should be used in the prescriber reference code field.
- Timely submission of claims is required; preferably the immunization and service claim dates should be the same.

The Alberta Health Services, Alberta College of Pharmacists and Alberta Pharmacists' Association websites offer additional information on the UIIP.

Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as applied to vulnerable persons in Congregate Living Settings

Alberta Health continues to provide funding under the APHAP for the management of outbreaks of influenza in Congregate Living Settings (Facilities). On behalf of Alberta Health, Alberta Blue Cross is facilitating payment of Tamiflu prescriptions for the management of outbreaks of influenza for Facility residents and staff (not effectively immunized against influenza). Only named residents and staff (Clients) in Facilities identified as having an influenza outbreak by an Alberta Health Services Medical Officer of Health (MOH) are eligible to receive antivirals through APHAP.

Tamiflu is eligible for coverage when used for the treatment or prophylaxis of influenza under the direction of an Alberta Health Services MOH. **When billing through APHAP, there should be no charge to the client for any of the Tamiflu prescription costs.**

Upon confirmation by an Alberta Health Services MOH of an influenza outbreak in a Facility, Alberta Health Services Public Health (PH) will work with the Facility to obtain Tamiflu prescriptions for clients from authorized prescribers. An Exposure Investigation (EI) number will be generated for each outbreak and provided to pharmacies with other pertinent information by Alberta Health Services PH.

Please treat such Tamiflu prescriptions as a priority and dispense them in a manner that meets the needs of the client; for example, in compliance packaging if required.

To receive compensation for eligible Tamiflu prescriptions for Clients in a Facility identified by an Alberta Health Services MOH, claims submitted through the Alberta Blue Cross claim adjudication system **must include the following data elements in addition to those identified on page 2 of this Benefact:**

1. **EI number** in the following format: YYYYXX entered into the special authorization field, left justified with no hyphen. In instances where the EI number is not provided on the claim, the claim will reject **CZ-no record of authorization number**.
 - YYYY = the year when the outbreak was declared by the MOH.
 - XXX = number of the investigation as provided by Alberta Health Services.
2. Drug Identification Number (DIN) for the Tamiflu product.
3. Payment amount (Actual Acquisition Cost, applicable Upcharges and Dispensing fee).
4. Quantity of Tamiflu dispensed.
5. Client number: client's Personal Health Number (PHN) as the client number.
 - In the case of Albertans with no PHN, such as those in homeless shelters, **HL0000000** must be entered as the client identification number.

Tamiflu products eligible for coverage

The following Tamiflu products will be eligible for coverage through the APHAP:

DIN	Description
00002381842	TAMIFLU 6 MG/ML ORAL SUSPENSION
00002241472	TAMIFLU 75 MG CAPSULE
00002304848	TAMIFLU 30 MG CAPSULE
00002304856	TAMIFLU 45 MG CAPSULE

In the rare instance where a commercial Tamiflu product is not suitable or available, an oseltamivir compound may be claimed using the PIN 00999999.

Claims for Tamiflu prescriptions billed to other Government of Alberta sponsored drug plans, such as Coverage for Seniors/Group 66, will not be covered.

APHAP – Guidance for pharmacists on service delivery of the influenza vaccine

September 12, 2014

Location or population	Intent*	Example	Can use public vaccine?	Can bill Alberta Blue Cross?	Requires coordination with AHS?
Pharmacies	P	Any pharmacy.	Yes	Yes	No
Shopping malls	P	Shopping mall kiosk—must be accessible to the public.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Centre	P	Recreation centre/community hall/YMCA—must be accessible to the public and excludes employee immunization services.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mobile Clinic	P	Events held in a public setting (For example, special event, airport, etc). Excludes mobile clinics for employees/workplace settings.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Home Visits	P	Only for patients not seen by public health or home care nurse—pharmacist to confirm with patient.	Yes	Yes	No
Institutional or congregate living settings where public health or other healthcare provider are not providing services	P	Assisted living, senior residence, seniors lodges, etc.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physician Offices or other health care settings	P	Physiotherapy clinic, physician office, etc. Excludes workplace immunization and institutional settings.	Yes	Yes	No
Workplace setting of any kind	W	Intent to vaccinate employees of a workplace.	Yes	No	No
Post-secondary institution workplace	W	Specific workplace clinic for staff of a post-secondary institution.	Yes	No	No
School or child care workplace setting	W	Specific workplace clinic for school staff or childcare staff.	Yes	No	No
Camp settings where public health or occupational services are not available	W	Specific workplace clinic for staff.	Yes	No	No
Other health care settings where staff are the target group to be immunized	W	Specific workplace clinic for staff of a physician office or other health care setting.	Yes	No	No
Immunization of children under nine years of age	P	Includes injectable and non-injectable vaccines.	No	No	NA
Institutional settings that receive services from public health or home care	P	Long-term care, lodges, group homes and assisted living.	No	No	NA
Post-secondary students during a time that public health or Students Health Services are providing an immunization clinic	P	Any post-secondary setting such as a university, college or technical training institute.	No	No	NA
Post-secondary students during a time that public health or Student Health Services are not providing an immunization clinic	P	Any post-secondary setting such as a university, college or technical training institute.	Yes	Yes	Yes
School or child care setting	P	Immunization of children in any school or child care setting.	No	No	NA
Visitors to Alberta	P	Who do not live, work or go to school in Alberta , from other province, territory, or country.	No	No	NA

* P = public; W = workplace; NA = Not Applicable

** - Refers to Government of Alberta sponsored Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP)

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Alberta Health Services, Zone Public Health Contact List

www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/diseases/hi-flu-disease-august-2014-newsletter.pdf

North Zone

Natalie Lobo

Phone: 780- 967-6220

Fax: 780- 967-2060

Edmonton Zone

Joanne Snider

Phone: 780-342-0228

Fax: 780-342-0248

Central Zone

Jackie Armstrong

Phone: 403-356-6409

Fax: 403-356-6332

Calgary Zone

Christine Sikora

Phone: 403-955-6750

Fax: 403-955-6755

South Zone

Public Health Nursing Team

Phone: 403-388-6684

Fax: 403-380-2893

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations call centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • **403-294-4041** (Calgary and area) • **1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • **FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)



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