

A REFERENCE GUIDE

FOR ADMINISTERING AND CLAIMING INFLUENZA VACCINES 2023/2024

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023



INFLUENZA VACCINES INCLUDED IN THE PROVINCIALY FUNDED PROGRAM

| PRODUCT | Standard Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (SD-QIV) | High Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (HD-QIV) |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Influenza vaccine name | Fluzone® FluLaval® Tetra | Fluzone® High Dose |
| Presentation | Multidose vial pre-filled syringe | Pre-filled syringe |
| Age group | Six months of age and older | 65 years of age and older |
| Influenza strains | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;• an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;• a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and• a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus. | |

ORDERING

Pharmacies must order vaccine judiciously. A sufficient supply of vaccine is available for pharmacies and the vaccine arrives in the province in a series of shipments.

Influenza vaccine is distributed to pharmacies through Pharmacy Wholesale Distributors (PWD) in collaboration with Alberta Health.

Alberta Health will continue to provide allocations for High Dose (HD) Influenza vaccine for the initial supply for the public program and for outreach administration but will no longer provide allocations for Standard Dose (SD) influenza vaccine. Pharmacies are to follow their primary wholesale distributors' routine process to order the initial pipeline fill of SD influenza vaccine.

Based on vaccine supply, once pipeline fills are complete, the **maximum weekly order amount** is 100 units (1,000 doses) for SD influenza vaccine and 20 units (100 doses) for HD influenza vaccine.

Influenza vaccine must be ordered in units, not doses. One unit is equal to 10 doses for SD influenza vaccine and, one unit is equal to five doses for HD influenza vaccine. Pharmacy wholesale distributors cannot take the vaccine back if errors in ordering occur at the pharmacy level.

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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Only immunization services provided by ACP injection-authorized pharmacists in approved locations and situations are eligible for Influenza Immunization Program (IIP) compensation. Pharmacists may not delegate the administration of provincially funded influenza vaccines to other health care professionals (paid or volunteer).

Please know that there has been an update to workplace administration of provincially funded immunizations, with pharmacists now having the ability to bill Alberta Blue Cross for the assessment for administration of doses administered in the workplace setting.

Pharmacists may administer privately purchased influenza vaccine at a cost to the client. Pharmacists must inform the client that provincially funded vaccine is available to them at no cost. Should a client wish to receive a privately purchased vaccine, the vaccine and associated administration costs would be the responsibility of the client. Such costs will not be reimbursed by Alberta Health.

VACCINE STORAGE AND HANDLING

Pharmacies must meet the requirements outlined in the Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling Policy for Provincially Funded Vaccine. This policy can be accessed at

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-vaccine-storage-and-handling-policy-for-provincially-funded-vaccine>

Cold chain breaks must be reported to the vaccine manufacturer as soon as possible and no later than five days for viability determination. A copy of the documentation must be kept with the vaccine. This record must be retained for at least seven years.

AGE OF ADMINISTRATION

Pharmacists may administer influenza vaccine to Albertans five years of age and older. Important considerations to note:

- Children who are younger than nine years of age and have **never received a dose of seasonal influenza vaccine require two doses** with a minimum spacing of four weeks between doses.
- Pharmacists immunizing children five to eight years of age should be competent with appropriate restraint and distraction techniques and be prepared to respond to an emergency event (for example, anaphylaxis).
- A review of the child's immunization record can be viewed in Netcare.

CLAIMS PROCESS

Pharmacists must submit claims to Alberta Blue Cross within three business days. However, claims for doses administered to a child under nine years of age should be entered as a priority to prevent delays

in updating the child's immunization record to ensure accuracy of the immunization schedule and history. It can take up to two weeks for the immunization record to be uploaded for viewing in Netcare.

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's eligibility will result in claim rejections with the response code **C8 - No record of this beneficiary**.

For the 2023-2024 program, the following PINs must be used for pharmacist-administered provincially funded influenza vaccines:

| DESCRIPTOR | PIN |
|---|----------|
| Routine Recommended Immunization – Standard Dose | 05666650 |
| Routine Recommended Immunization – Influenza High Dose (HD) | 00000050 |

All claims must be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE RT claims adjudication system with the following data elements:

- Carrier Code 16 (as the third-party plan).
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000.
- Pharmacy license number.
- Pharmacist identification number.
- Client number: client's PHN as the client number.
- Client's full name: last and first name.
- Client's date of birth.
- Client's gender.
- Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default.
- Prescriber reference ID number (for example, license number of pharmacists with ACP injection authorization).
- Service date.
- PIN/Reason Code.
- Quantity (must be entered as one).
- "86" should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field.

Charges of up to \$13 per injectable influenza immunization service may be claimed as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services under the *Assessment for the Administration of a Provincially Funded Vaccine*.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH BENEFIT OR CLAIM INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT AN ALBERTA BLUE CROSS PHARMACY SERVICES PROVIDER RELATIONS CONTACT 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)

