

Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP)

As in past years, pharmacists are invited to participate in the publicly funded influenza immunization program.

Influenza Immunization Program 2015/2016

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

Changes to the Influenza Immunization Program this year include the following:

The *IIP* has been updated and can be accessed at www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html.

Please note:

The Alberta Vaccine Cold Chain Policy is new – Section 10

The Off-Site Influenza Immunization Clinic Appendix is new – Appendix E

Influenza Vaccines have changed – Appendix A

For Reason Code identification, the following PINs must be used for pharmacist-administered provincially-funded influenza vaccines:

05666603—Healthcare Worker

05666646—Pregnant Woman

05666602—Greater than or equal to 65 years of age

05666664—Nine to 64 years of age

If a client falls under more than one PIN category, the number uppermost in the list must be used (for example, if the client is a pregnant healthcare worker, use the 05666603 PIN).

Pharmacists are required to submit influenza immunization service claims via Alberta Blue Cross within three (3) business days of administering influenza vaccine. This change allows Alberta Health to reconcile vaccine distributed with doses administered in a timely manner.

Pharmacies **must order vaccine judiciously**. A sufficient supply of vaccine is available for pharmacies. Alberta Health will be monitoring inventory ordered and immunizations administered. Over-ordering by pharmacies in 2014/2015 resulted in the waste of 70,000 doses of influenza vaccine.

Destruction of unused vaccine is the pharmacy's responsibility.

Publicly-funded influenza vaccine will be shipped to the wholesalers by October 13, 2015 in order for providers to have vaccine by the **October 20, 2015 public launch date. Administration of vaccine should not take place prior to October 20, 2015, and claims for influenza immunization services prior to October 20, 2015 will not be paid by Alberta Health.** In the spirit of collaboration and to decrease confusion to the public, Alberta Health is requesting that private influenza vaccine not be administered prior to October 20, 2015.

Alberta Health Services will not be providing hard copy immunization record (NCR) forms to pharmacies, but the NCR form is accessible at www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp.

Cold chain breaks must be immediately reported to Alberta Health at health.imm@gov.ab.ca. Refer to Appendix B of the *IIP*.

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Similar to last year, minimum/maximum order quantities for influenza vaccine products are as follows:

- Influvac®: minimum order is 1 unit; maximum order is 20 units
- FluMist®: minimum order is 1 unit; maximum order is 5 units
- Fluad®: minimum order is 1 unit; maximum order is 5 units
- Fluviral®: minimum order is 1 unit; maximum order is 5 units

Claims Processes

Pharmacies can begin providing public Influenza Immunization Program services and submitting claims **as of October 20, 2015**.

In accordance with the *Influenza Immunization Policy*, a pharmacist shall not bill Alberta Blue Cross for administering influenza vaccine to children less than nine years of age (including injectable and non-injectable vaccines).

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

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 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 to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default
- Prescriber reference ID number (for example, license number of pharmacist with ACP injection authorization)
- Service date
- PIN/Reason Code
- Quantity (for example, one)
- "86" should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field.

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

Charges of up to \$20 per injectable or intranasal influenza immunization service may be claimed as per the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services.

More information on the Influenza Immunization Program can be found in the attached *Fact Sheet for Pharmacists*.

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

Alberta Health, under the *Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP)*, continues to provide funding for the management of influenza outbreaks 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*.

Upon confirmation by an 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. When billing through the APHAP, there should be no charge to the Client for any Tamiflu prescription costs.

Claims processes

To receive compensation for eligible Tamiflu prescriptions, claims must include 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 personal health number (PHN). In the case of Albertans with no PHN, such as those in homeless shelters, HL0000000 must be used.
- 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
- Service date
- DIN (for the Tamiflu product)
- Quantity (of Tamiflu dispensed)
- Payment amount (Medication cost, upcharges and dispensing fee)
- "86" should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field
- EI number in the format YYYYXXX entered into the special authorization field, left justified with no hyphen. Claims without the EI number will be rejected with the response code **CZ – No record of authorization number**. (YYYY is the year when the outbreak was declared by the MOH and XXX is the number of the investigation as provided by Alberta Health Services.)

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The following Tamiflu products are eligible for coverage:

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 when no commercial Tamiflu products are suitable or available, an oseltamivir compound may be claimed using the PIN 00999999.

Claims for Tamiflu prescriptions billed to other Government of Alberta drug plans, such as Coverage for Seniors (Group 66), are not eligible for coverage.

When you have questions:

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)

Public Influenza Immunization Program Fact Sheet for Pharmacists

Alberta's Public Launch:

- The public launch for the 2015-2016 Public Influenza Immunization Program is October 20, 2015. Community providers must not administer publicly funded influenza vaccine prior to October 20, 2015. In the spirit of collaboration and to decrease confusion to the public, Alberta Health is requesting that private influenza vaccine doses not be administered prior to the October 20, 2015 program launch.

2015-2016 Influenza Vaccines Available Through the IIP in Alberta

Product	Influvac [®]	Fluviral [®]	Fluad [®]	Fluzone [®] <i>*Not Available in Pharmacy</i>	FluMist [®]
Vaccine Type	Inactivated sub-unit TIV	Inactivated-split virus TIV	Inactivated-subunit TIV adjuvant	Inactivated-split virus QIV	Live-attenuated QLAIV
Estimated Vaccine Availability	October 20, 2015	October 20, 2015	October 20, 2015	October 28, 2015	October 28, 2015
Presentation	Pre-filled syringe	Multi-dose vial	Pre-filled syringe	Pre-filled syringe	Pre-filled sprayer
Route of Administration	IM	IM	IM	IM	Intranasal spray
Vaccine of Choice for Age Group	18 to 64 years	18 to 64 years	≥65	6 to 23 months (children 2 to 17 years of age who cannot receive FluMist) (Preferentially Pharmacies should refer children who cannot receive FluMist to AHS Public Health [†] , or administer Fluviral)	≥2 to 17 years (pharmacies) ≥9 years) (adults 18 to 59 years who are needle phobic)
Antibiotics (trace)	Gentamicin	None	Kanamycin Neomycin	None	Gentamicin
Thimerosal	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Non-Medical ingredients	egg protein Formaldehyde Cetytrimethyl-ammonium bromide (CTAB) Polysorbate 80	Egg protein Formaldehyde Sodium deoxycholate	Egg protein Formaldehyde Polysorbate 80 CTAB	Egg protein Formaldehyde Triton X-100 Gelatin Sucrose	Egg protein Gelatin hydrolysate Sucrose Arginine Monosodium glutamate

Publicly funded pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine availability:

- Vaccine administration is restricted to Alberta Health Service (AHS) Public Health and Physicians. Clients who may be eligible for pneumococcal vaccine should be referred to their local Public Health clinic.

Vaccine administration to children between 5 to 8 years of age:

- In accordance with the Influenza Immunization Policy (IIP), a Pharmacist shall not bill Alberta Blue Cross for administering Influenza Vaccine to children less than nine years of age (includes injectable and non-injectable vaccines). Children eight years of age or less should be referred to their local Public Health clinics.

Off-Site Influenza Immunization Clinics (OSIIC)

- To offer the administration of Influenza Vaccine at an OSIIC, refer to Appendix E of the IIP. www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html

Workplace Influenza Immunization:

- In accordance with the IIP, a Pharmacist shall not bill Alberta Blue Cross for administering Influenza Vaccine in a workplace setting. Pharmacists offering influenza immunization clinics in a workplace setting must charge the employer for the administration of the Influenza Vaccine. Refer to section 14 and Appendix E of the IIP. www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html

Redistribution of Excess Influenza Vaccine within a Pharmacy Chain:

- Alberta Health is responsible for providing Influenza Vaccine to Pharmacy Wholesale Distributors (PWDs) for distribution to Pharmacies. Publicly funded Influenza Vaccines are listed in Appendix A of the IIP; however, not all vaccines are available to all Immunizers.
- Pharmacies must order and receive publicly funded Influenza Vaccine from Alberta Health through PWDs. Refer to Appendix C of the IIP.
- Influenza Vaccine received by a Pharmacy may not be moved to another Pharmacy or Immunizer without the prior consent of Alberta Health.

Influenza Vaccine Wastage Threshold

- A judicious approach to Influenza Vaccine ordering is required to ensure that dilution of supply is mitigated. There are currently no financial penalty processes in place for Immunizers that stockpile; however, if trends in over-ordering are identified, repayment processes may be established. Providers should aim for Influenza Vaccine wastage to be less than five percent at the end of the Public Influenza Immunization Program.
 - Do not return Influenza Vaccine to PWDs as they will not be accepting returns.
 - Pharmacies are responsible for the proper destruction of unused/expired Influenza Vaccine. The cost for destruction will not be reimbursed.

Cold Chain Breaks

- Alberta Vaccine Cold Chain Policy is new and can be found at: www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AIP-Vaccine-Cold-Chain-Policy-2015.pdf
- Cold chain management practices must be implemented in clinical practice sites and off-site clinics as per section 10 of the IIP. The Pharmacy Cold Chain Break Report form can be accessed at: www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AIP-Pharmacy-Cold-Chain-Break-Form.pdf

Unique Lifetime Identifier (ULI) numbers:

- To access Alberta's publicly funded influenza vaccine, an Alberta ULI or personal health number is required. Albertans who do not have a ULI should be referred to local Public Health clinic to be immunized.

Is an RN or LPN able to administer the influenza vaccine at a pharmacy?

- In order to be paid for publicly funded influenza immunization services, under Ministerial Order 23/2014, Pharmacists may not delegate the administration of publicly funded influenza vaccines to other health care professionals (paid or volunteer).

Immunization Records:

- AHS does not have the capacity to look-up immunization records for clients presenting for immunization in a pharmacy.

For questions about the influenza immunization program please email: health.imm@gov.ab.ca

For additional information on the influenza immunization program please visit the following websites:

- Alberta Health Service's Influenza Immunization Information for Health Professionals
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp>
- Alberta Health Service's Influenza Immunization Information
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.asp>
- Alberta Health Influenza Immunization Policy (IIP):
www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html
- ACP's Standards: <https://pharmacists.ab.ca/standards-practice>

¹ Pharmacists should refer children who cannot receive FluMist to public health so that they can receive a quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine

**The World Health Organization estimates that immunization prevents between 2 to 3 million deaths per year worldwide.
Protect your children, yourself and others – immunize!**