

Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP)

Influenza Immunization Program 2016/2017

This season's public Influenza Immunization Program begins **October 24, 2016**.

Pharmacist participation in the publicly-funded influenza immunization program 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*).

The Alberta Pharmacists' Association has developed an influenza immunization education program for 2016/2017 that supports pharmacists in understanding the IIP. Pharmacists should complete the education program prior to administering influenza vaccine. This online program can be found at <https://www.rxa.ca/professional-development/online-courses.aspx>.

Changes to the Influenza Immunization Program this year include:

- The IIP has been updated and can be accessed at www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/immunization-policy.html
- Influenza vaccines have changed—refer to *Appendix A* of the IIP 2016-2017.
- New maximum order quantities are:
 - FluMist®: minimum order is one unit; maximum order is two units (at a time).
 - Fludac®: minimum order is one unit; maximum order is three units (at a time).
 - Fluzone®: minimum order is one unit; maximum order is 12 units (at a time).

For exceptions to ordering thresholds, please email health.imm@gov.ab.ca.

- Administration of public influenza vaccine to the general public should not take place prior to October 24, 2016; however, Alberta healthcare professionals who will be providing influenza immunizations may, themselves, be immunized starting on October 20, 2016. Claims for immunizers will be accepted as of this date.
- For pharmacists providing influenza immunization services in Lloydminster, refer to *Appendix E* of the IIP 2016-2017.

For Reason Code identification, the following PINs must be used for pharmacist-administered publicly 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

05666647 - FluMist®

If a client falls under more than one PIN category, the number uppermost in the list must be used (e.g., 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 allows Alberta Health, in a timely manner, to reconcile vaccine distributed with doses administered.

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Pharmacies **must order vaccine judiciously**. A sufficient supply of vaccine is available for pharmacies. Last year, approximately 90,000 doses of influenza vaccine remained unused in pharmacies at the end of the season. Destruction of unused vaccine is the pharmacy's responsibility.

Alberta Health Services will not be providing hard copy immunization record (NCR) forms to pharmacies but the NCR form is accessible via the Alberta Health Services Influenza web site at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-09826.pdf>.

Cold chain breaks must be reported to Alberta Health at health.imm@gov.ab.ca as soon as possible and within one business day of the occurrence. Refer to *Appendix C* of the IIP 2016-2017.

Pharmacists may administer privately purchased influenza vaccine prior to the public launch date. Pharmacists must inform the client that publicly funded influenza vaccine is available at no cost to them starting October 24, 2016, and, prior to that date, privately purchased vaccine and associated administration costs will not be reimbursed by Alberta Health.

Claims Processes

Pharmacies can begin submitting Influenza Immunization Program service claims for the general public as of October 24, 2016. Claims for Alberta immunizers can be submitted as of October 20, 2016.

In accordance with the 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).

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**.

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) 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 enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default
- Prescriber reference ID number (e.g., license number of pharmacist with ACP injection authorization)
- Service date
- PIN/Reason Code
- Quantity (e.g. 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*.

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 the 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 from authorized prescribers for Clients. An Exposure Investigation (EI) number will be generated for each outbreak and provided to pharmacies with other pertinent information by Alberta Health Services PH.

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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 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.)

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)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php>



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