

Bulletin #821

November 2, 2011

Antiviral Coverage for NBPDP Beneficiaries in Long-term Care Facilities

Information for Pharmacies Providing Services to Licensed Nursing Homes

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®) are available as special authorization benefits for NBPDP beneficiaries who are residents of long-term care (LTC) facilities (refers to licensed nursing homes and does not include special care homes.) The following protocol has been developed by Public Health for the treatment of infected patients and prophylaxis during influenza outbreaks in LTC facilities.

- In the event of a respiratory outbreak in a LTC facility, the attending physician or the facility's Medical Advisor/House Physician will consult with the regional Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to determine if the cause of the outbreak is, or believed to be due to influenza.
- If the cause of the outbreak is determined to be, or likely to be, influenza, the MOH will make general recommendations regarding antiviral use in the facility. The responsibility for individual resident treatment decisions during the outbreak remains with the attending physician. The process for coverage is as follows:
 - Oseltamivir: Special authorization NBPDP benefit, Plan V only
 - Option for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza A or influenza B
 - Zanamivir: Special authorization NBPDP benefit, Plan V only
 - Option for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza A or influenza B in cases of suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistance or contraindication to oseltamivir.
- It is important to begin antiviral treatment within 24-48 hours of symptom onset. Antiviral medication is unlikely to benefit residents who have been ill for more than 48 hours.
- Link to guidance on antiviral use: <http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines>

Process for Coverage of Antivirals

NBPDP Special Authorization Approval:

If antiviral use is recommended by the MOH, the LTC facility's Medical Advisor/House Physician or other staff designated by the facility will notify the NBPDP of the decision to start antiviral therapy in that LTC facility by calling the NBPDP Inquiry line: 1-800-332-3691.

After regular work hours, a message containing the following information should be left:

- Date of message
- Name and address of LTC facility
- Name of pharmacy filling the prescriptions for antivirals and
- Name and telephone number of a contact person at the LTC facility in case the NBPDP needs to clarify any details.

The LTC facility's pharmacist should be contacted at the same time as the NBPDP to allow time to secure and dispense the quantity of antiviral required.

On-Line Payment of Special Authorization Claims for Antivirals:

When notified by the LTC facility that antiviral therapy has been ordered for residents, NBPDP will initiate special authorization approval for all beneficiaries of Plan V (nursing home residents) in the facility. NBPDP will notify the pharmacy when special authorization for the antiviral has been activated and the pharmacy can then bill claims on-line. Approval for antiviral therapy for relief care residents who are not beneficiaries of Plan V must be done separately. The LTC facility must notify NBPDP if they have any relief care residents.

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Oseltamivir (<i>Tamiflu</i> [®]) 30 mg, 45 mg, and 75mg capsules	For beneficiaries residing in long-term care facilities* during an influenza outbreak situation and further to the general recommendation of a Medical Officer of Health on antiviral use: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For treatment with clinically suspected or lab confirmed influenza A or B. A clinically suspected case is one in which the patient meets the criteria of influenza-like illness and there is confirmation of influenza A or B circulating within the facility or surrounding community.• For prophylaxis where the facility has an influenza A or B outbreak. Prophylaxis should be continued until the outbreak is over. An outbreak is declared over 7 days after the onset of the last case in the facility. <p>* In these criteria, <i>long-term care facility</i> refers to a licensed nursing home and does not include special care homes.</p>
Zanamivir (<i>Relenza</i> [®]) 5 mg blister for inhalation	For beneficiaries residing in long-term care facilities and who meet the same treatment criteria or prophylaxis criteria as for oseltamivir, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for whom there is suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistance, OR• for whom oseltamivir is contraindicated.