

March 17, 2010

To: NB Pharmacists

**Subject: Closure of Provincial Pandemic Influenza Antiviral Stockpile**

Dear Pharmacist:


I write to inform you that there has been a persistent and dramatic decrease in the level of activity of the H1N1 pandemic influenza virus in the province. So far this year only one case has been confirmed in New Brunswick.

In response to this absence of disease the Provincial Antiviral Stockpile will be closed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. This letter serves as notice to stop dispensing the provincial pandemic supply of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), under stockpile guidelines, as of this date. After this date the oseltamivir portion of the provincial antiviral stockpile will no longer be available without charge.

There may be some need for physicians to prescribe antivirals after this date, as per seasonal influenza recommendations. In that setting, prescriptions for antivirals should still be filled by community pharmacies using the commercial supply as per routine pharmacy billing practices.

Please refer to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program Bulletin # 784 for information on the return of expired or unused antiviral stock. This can be arranged by contacting McKesson (Michele Awalt: (902)-876-6006 or [michele.awalt@mckesson.ca](mailto:michele.awalt@mckesson.ca)).

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Eilish Cleary  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Bulletin #784

March 19, 2010

## Return Process for Unused and Expired Provincial Pandemic Antiviral Stock of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®)

The provincial pandemic antiviral stockpile will be officially closed March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

- Due to the absence of circulating pandemic virus, pharmacies must stop dispensing the provincial pandemic supply of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) as of March 31<sup>st</sup> and recommence dispensing their commercial supply, exclusively.
- Pharmacies are no longer able to order additional supplies of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) from the provincial pandemic stock.
- You may begin returning all expired and unused oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) remaining from the provincial pandemic stockpile to McKesson Canada.
- To facilitate the return, please complete the form found on page 2 of this bulletin and fax back to 1-800-563-2277.
- All questions related to the return of the provincial antiviral stock should be directed to McKesson Canada Customer Service at 1-800-565-7821.
- The standard NBPDP process for antiviral coverage will resume. For your information, the standard process and antiviral criteria for NBPDP beneficiaries residing in long-term care facilities (Plan V) are outlined on page 3 of this bulletin.

**McKesson Pharmaceutical**  
24 Lakeside Park Drive  
Lakeside, Nova Scotia B3T 1L1  
Halifax Customer Service:  
Tel: 902-876-7821/ 1-800-565-7821  
Fax: 902-876-0265/ 1-800-563-2277

March 3, 2010

Dear Valued Customer,

To facilitate the return of your remaining inventory of the New Brunswick government stockpile of Tamiflu to McKesson Canada, we ask that you please complete the form below and fax to 1-800-563-2277.

Item #	Description	Quantity	Lot #	Expiry Date
697557	NB TAMIFLU CP 30MG 10		B3002B019	06/2016
			B1009B018	07/2015
699454	NB TAMIFLU CP 45MG 10		B1008B91U18	07/2015
			B3002B019	06/2016
700716	NB TAMIFLU CP 75MG 10		B12466	08/2011
			B12626	08/2011
			B12186	03/2011
			B1346B018	08/2015

Store Name:	
Account #:	
Pharmacist Name:	
Pharmacist Signature:	

**DEADLINE TO RETURN FORM APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

Yours truly,  
McKesson Canada

# Antiviral Coverage for NBPDP Beneficiaries in Long-term Care Facilities

## Information for Pharmacies Providing Services to Licensed Nursing Homes

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu<sup>®</sup>) and zanamivir (Relenza<sup>®</sup>) 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 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.
- 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 national antiviral guidelines and information:  
[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/vac\\_antiv/index-vacantiv-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/vac_antiv/index-vacantiv-eng.php)

## 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 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

<b>Oseltamivir</b> ( <i>Tamiflu</i> <sup>®</sup> ) 75mg caps	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p>* In these criteria, <i>long-term care facility</i> refers to a licensed nursing home and does not include special care homes.</p>
<b>Zanamivir</b> ( <i>Relenza</i> <sup>®</sup> ) 5 mg blister for inhalation	<p>For beneficiaries meeting the same criteria as for oseltamivir and for whom there is suspected or confirmed oseltamivir resistance, or for whom oseltamivir is contraindication.</p>