

Bulletin #699

November 22, 2007

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu[®]) for NBPDP Beneficiaries in Long-term Care Facilities

Information for Pharmacies Providing Services to Licensed Nursing Homes

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu[®]) is available as a special authorization benefit 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 management of influenza outbreaks in LTC facilities.

- When an attending physician or the LTC facility's Medical Advisor/House Physician determines influenza to be the cause of an outbreak, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) will be contacted.
- If the MOH recommends antiviral use in a facility, the process for coverage depends on the drug recommended.
 - Amantadine - Regular NBPDP benefit
 - Option for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza A unless resistance is noted or its use is contraindicated. **Note: At this time, there is no change to the November 2006 Public Health Agency of Canada recommendation that health care providers in Canada not prescribe amantadine to treat and prevent influenza during the current flu season.**
 - Oseltamivir: Special authorization NBPDP benefit
 - Option for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza A or influenza B.
- When antiviral medication is being considered for treatment of a resident who is symptomatic, it is important to confirm that the influenza symptoms have been present for less than 48 hours. Antiviral medication is unlikely to benefit residents who have been ill for more than 48 hours.

The 2007-2008 NACI Statement includes recommendations for use of oseltamivir. Despite the fact that amantadine is not recommended, information for amantadine is also included in the event that testing of the 2007-2008 strain indicates susceptibility to it. (The full 2007-2008 NACI Statement, including dosing guidelines, can be accessed at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/07vol33/acs-07/index_e.html).

Process for Coverage and Ordering Oseltamivir

NBPDP Special Authorization Approval:

If oseltamivir 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 oseltamivir therapy in that LTC facility by calling the NBPDP Inquiry line: 1-800-332-3691.

After hours, a message containing the following information will be left:

- Date of message
- Name and address of LTC facility
- Name of pharmacy filling the prescriptions for oseltamivir 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 oseltamivir required. Roche Canada (the manufacturer of oseltamivir) is no longer suspending sales of oseltamivir, so pharmacies can obtain the medication through their normal order processes.

On-Line Payment of Special Authorization Claims for Oseltamivir:

When notified by the LTC facility that oseltamivir 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 oseltamivir has been activated and the pharmacy can then bill claims on-line. Approval for oseltamivir 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 (*Tamiflu*®) 75mg capsules

For beneficiaries residing in long-term care facilities* during an influenza outbreak situation and further to the recommendation of a Medical Officer of Health:

- For treatment of long-term care residents 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 of long-term care residents 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.

* In these criteria, *long-term care facility* refers to a licensed nursing home and does not include special care homes.