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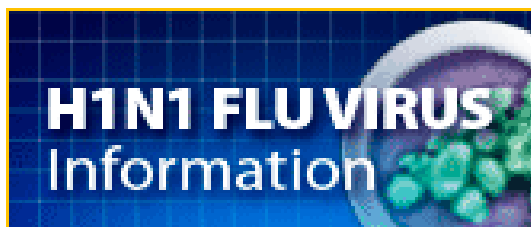
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H1N1 FLU VIRUS — ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION PLANS



As you are aware, there may be a rise in the incidence of H1N1 Flu Virus in the fall. An important aspect of planning is the management of antiviral medications.

In a [letter to physicians dated September 2, 2009](#), the Provincial Health Officer advised B.C. physicians of the actions physicians can take in treating H1N1 Flu Virus, including early treatment with antiviral medications for patients with certain chronic conditions.

A [letter to pharmacists on May 1, 2009](#), provided information on the priority indications for the use of antiviral medications. This information was recently updated in a [September 18, 2009, letter to pharmacists](#) from the Provincial Health Officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the Ministry of Health Services.

**The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment.
 Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete.
 The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or
 drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient.
 Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure
 no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.**

ANTIVIRAL DISTRIBUTION PLAN

The BCCDC provides provincial and national leadership in public health, including emergency preparedness through surveillance, detection, treatment, prevention and consultation services. As such, it is responsible for providing guidance regarding the provincial supply of antiviral medication for the H1N1 Flu Virus.

In consultation with the Provincial Health Officer, the BCCDC plans to release a portion of the provincial supply of the antiviral oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) on or near October 1, 2009. Pharmacies will be alerted of any change to the date. Zanamivir (Relenza®) will not be released at this time. The provincial supply can be used only for treatment of influenza (i.e., a 5 day course); prophylaxis is not recommended except in certain limited situations described in the [September 18, 2009 letter to pharmacists](#).

Transitioning from the Commercial Supply to the Provincial Pandemic Supply

The BC Centre for Disease Control has identified the primary wholesaler of antiviral medications for each B.C. community pharmacy.



For the time being, pharmacies should dispense their commercial supply.

Pharmacies should continue to stock sufficient commercial supplies until the provincial pandemic supply is released. Wholesalers expect to be able to re-supply pharmacies within 24 to 48 hours.

Please see "**Commercial Supply** – PharmaCare Coverage and Claims Procedures" (page 3).



When the BCCDC releases the provincial pandemic supply, each pharmacy's primary wholesaler will automatically ship a pre-determined quantity of the provincial pandemic supply of oseltamivir in the adult dosage (75mg) and the pediatric dosage (30mg, 45mg).

This supply will be included with your pharmacy's next regular order, at no charge. The quantity your pharmacy will receive is based on the estimated population within your municipality.



When your pharmacy receives the provincial pandemic supply:

- ✧ Stop dispensing your commercial supply ✧
- ✧ Begin dispensing the provincial pandemic supply ✧

When you dispense from the provincial pandemic supply, do not charge drug cost to any patient. PharmaCare will track the claim and pay a dispensing fee.

Please see "**Provincial Pandemic Supply** – PharmaCare Coverage and Claims Procedures" (page 4).



When you have two days' supply remaining of the provincial pandemic supply, contact your wholesaler. The wholesaler will ship an additional pre-determined quantity.

COMMERCIAL SUPPLY PHARMACARE COVERAGE AND CLAIMS PROCEDURES

Coverage for Fair PharmaCare, Plan C (B.C. Income Assistance), Plan F (At Home Program), and Plan P (Palliative Care)

Until further notice, PharmaCare is covering a single **5-day course** per patient of the antiviral medications listed below as a regular PharmaCare benefit for treatment (not for prophylaxis). Repeat courses of treatment are not eligible for coverage.

The usual rules of the patient's PharmaCare plan apply, including any annual deductible requirement.

Eligible B.C. residents who are not yet registered for Fair PharmaCare can register and receive temporary coverage immediately. Patients can:

- Register online at any time: <https://pharmacare.moh.hnet.bc.ca/>
- Phone Health Insurance BC, Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM and Saturday 8 AM to 4 PM.
From Vancouver & the Lower Mainland, call 604-683-7151. From the rest of BC, call toll-free 1-800-663-7100.

Coverage for Plan B (Permanent Residents of Licensed Residential Care Facilities)

Coverage is provided for the 2009/10 influenza season. Access to antiviral medications for these patients continues to be in accordance with the established protocol of the relevant health authority and there is no change to the duration or level of PharmaCare coverage provided.

Product Identification Numbers – Commercial Supply

DIN	DRUG NAME	SUPPLY TYPE
2241472	oseltamivir phosphate (TAMIFLU®) 75 mg capsule	Commercial
2245549	oseltamivir phosphate (TAMIFLU®) 12 mg/ml oral suspension	Commercial
2240863	zanamivir (RELENZA®) for inhalation	Commercial

Product Identification Numbers – Coverage of Oseltamivir Compounded Oral Suspension

As announced in [PharmaCare Newsletter 09-011](#), PharmaCare is covering compounded 15 mg/mL oral suspensions of oseltamivir when the commercial suspension is unavailable. To submit a claim for the compounded suspension, use the PIN indicated.

PIN	VOLUME AT 15 MG/ML	PHARMACARE MAXIMUM PRICE PER ML*	SUPPLY TYPE
22123055	30 mL using 6 capsules	\$ 1.2697 includes \$13.00 compounding fee	Commercial
22123056	40 mL using 8 capsules	\$ 1.1609 includes \$13.00 compounding fee	Commercial
22123057	50 mL using 10 capsules	\$ 1.0956 includes \$13.00 compounding fee	Commercial

*Maximum price is based on the number of capsules used in compounding.

PROVINCIAL PANDEMIC SUPPLY CLAIMS PROCEDURES

When the provincial pandemic supply is dispensed, no drug cost should be charged or claimed.

This supply is intended for **all patients** with a valid prescription, **whether or not they are B.C. residents** or have PharmaCare coverage. This includes patients visiting the province and those with federal coverage through the RCMP, Non-Insured Health Benefits, Veteran's Affairs, or the Canadian Forces.

Please note that the BCCDC recommends children be provided with antiviral medication in capsule form. For more information, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) available in the Health Care Providers section of the H1N1 Flu Virus Information website at www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1.

Dispensing Fee

The Ministry of Health Services will track claims using provincial pandemic supply PINs and reimburse pharmacies the PharmaCare maximum dispensing fee of \$8.60 per claim.

The BCCDC and Provincial Health Services Authority fully cover the drug cost of the provincial pandemic supply. PharmaCare will cover \$8.60 of the dispensing fee for all patients in B.C. whether or not they have PharmaCare coverage. The intent is to ensure that cost is not a barrier to antiviral treatment for any patient.

PharmaCare will pay the dispensing fees as part of the regular weekly payments. Because a report must be run and verified before payment is made, the payments will occur **two weeks** after the payment period in which the claims were submitted. A weekly remittance advice will capture this adjustment.

Claims Procedures

The provincial pandemic supply is intended for all patients regardless of residency or PharmaCare coverage. These unique circumstances present a challenge as PharmaNet is not designed to easily accommodate claims for medications that require an entry and payment on a medication profile bypassing normal adjudication and claims processing. We appreciate your patience in manually entering the drug cost, dispensing fee and intervention code.

To dispense the provincial pandemic supply:

- In the **Drug Cost** field, enter zero.
- In the **Dispensing Fee** field, your pharmacy's **usual and customary fee minus \$8.60**.
- In the **DIN/PIN** field, enter the appropriate PIN indicated below.

Note that these PINs are reserved for the provincial pandemic supply only.

- Enter the Intervention Code **DE – Adjudicate to zero**. This code ensures no cost is charged to PharmaCare (as the dispensing fee payment will be generated via a separate report using the provincial pandemic supply PINs) but will permit any portion above the \$8.60 fee to be transferred to other insurers.

Product Identification Numbers – Provincial Pandemic Supply

PIN	DRUG NAME	SUPPLY TYPE
66124720	oseltamivir 30 mg capsule	Provincial pandemic
66124721	oseltamivir 45 mg capsule	Provincial pandemic
66124722	oseltamivir 75 mg capsule	Provincial pandemic
66124723	zanamavir 5 mg disk with device — Not being released at this time.	Provincial pandemic
22123059	oseltamivir 15 mg/ml – 30 ml - compounded suspension	Provincial pandemic
22123060	oseltamivir 15 mg/ml – 40 ml - compounded suspension	Provincial pandemic
22123061	oseltamivir 15 mg/ml – 50 ml - compounded suspension	Provincial pandemic

Note: When you use PINs 22123059/60/61, PharmaCare will pay an additional \$13.00 compounding fee (for a total fee of \$21.60). Compound fees will be identified by the same process being used for dispensing fees for the provincial pandemic supply. You do **not** need to enter the compound fee as part of the PharmaNet claim.

ROLE OF HOSPITAL PHARMACIES

Please note that hospital pharmacies must concentrate on providing care to hospitalized patients and must therefore reserve supplies of antiviral medications for in-patient treatment.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Information for health care providers

- For the most up-to-date information for health care providers and the public about H1N1 Flu Virus, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1.



The website has a dedicated page for pharmacists. Click on the **Information for Health Care Providers** button, and then select **Information for B.C. Pharmacists**.

The information available includes clinical information about antiviral medications and printable information for your patients about antiviral treatment.



[Sign up](#) to be notified whenever the website is updated with significant new or revised information for pharmacists.

Additional information for your patients:

- HealthLink BC is providing H1N1 Flu Virus information for the public in multiple languages on its website at www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile108.stm.