

Alberta Health Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as applied to Vulnerable Populations Living in Congregate Living Settings

Through the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP), the Alberta Health Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as applied to Vulnerable Persons Populations Living in Congregate Living Settings facilitates the funding and provision of antiviral drugs at no cost to vulnerable populations living in a congregate living setting.

“Vulnerable Population” means individuals living in Alberta who are at a higher risk of suffering more significant consequences from influenza than the general population, as determined by a Medical Officer of Health (MOH), due to one or more factors that include, but are not limited to, age, chronic health conditions or multiple health conditions.

“Congregate Living Setting” means a supportive living accommodation to which the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act applies; homeless shelters; group homes; and any other place in Alberta, excluding Lloydminster, that provides a form of congregate living to individuals who are members of a vulnerable population. Residents of a nursing home under the Nursing Homes Act who have been prescribed an antiviral by a physician or patients in a hospital under the Hospitals Act are not eligible for the funding and provision of influenza antivirals under this policy.

An individual is eligible (Eligible Person) for the funding and provision of an antiviral drug under this policy at no cost to the individual if a Medical Officer of Health has confirmed the individual is a member of a Vulnerable Population and lives in a Congregate Living Setting where an MOH has confirmed the spread of influenza or Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and has determined that it is necessary to use an antiviral drug to manage the spread of influenza or ILI for public health purposes.

Antiviral prescriptions should be treated as a priority and dispensed in a manner that meets the needs of the client (such as compliance packaging). As per the policy, there should be no charge to the eligible person for any antiviral prescription costs.

Claims process

To receive compensation for eligible oseltamivir 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.
- 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 to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default.
- Prescriber reference ID number.

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- Service date.
- DIN (for the oseltamivir product).
- Quantity (of oseltamivir dispensed).
- Payment amount (medication cost, upcharges and dispensing fee).
- "86" should be used in the Prescriber Reference Code field.
- Pharmacy license number.
- El number in the format YYYYXXX entered into the special authorization field, left justified with no hyphen. Claims without the El 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 oseltamivir products are eligible for coverage:

DIN	Product description
00002381842	Tamiflu 6 mg/ml Oral Suspension
00002304848	Tamiflu 30 mg Capsule
00002304856	Tamiflu 45 mg Capsule
00002241472	Tamiflu 75 mg Capsule
00002497352	Mar-Oseltamivir 30 mg Capsule
00002497360	Mar-Oseltamivir 45 mg Capsule
00002497379	Mar-Oseltamivir 75 mg Capsule
00002499894	Nat-Oseltamivir 6 mg/ml Oral Suspension
00002472635	Nat-Oseltamivir 30 mg Capsule
00002472643	Nat-Oseltamivir 45 mg Capsule
00002457989	Nat-Oseltamivir 75 mg Capsule
00002504006	Oseltamivir Phosphate 30 mg Capsule
00002504014	Oseltamivir Phosphate 45 mg Capsule
00002504022	Oseltamivir Phosphate 75 mg Capsule

It is of importance that Nat-Oseltamivir be used in accordance with the Health Canada-approved product monograph.

In the rare instance where no commercial Tamiflu, Nat-Oseltamivir, Mar-Oseltamivir, or Oseltamivir Phosphate products are suitable or available, an oseltamivir compound may be claimed using the PIN 00999999 (and the appropriate oseltamivir products). Claims for oseltamivir prescriptions billed to other Government of Alberta drug plans, such as Coverage for Seniors (Group 66), are not eligible for coverage.

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 Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

