

Notice from the Executive Officer:

Pharmacist Administration of Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccine and Claims Submission using the Health Network System

For the 2014-2015 Influenza Immunization Season

Pharmacists who have successfully completed the required injection training and are registered as such with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) may administer the publicly funded influenza vaccine injection to eligible Ontarians at participating pharmacies. Required training includes current certification in CPR and First Aid¹.

Pharmacies that have been approved to provide influenza vaccine under the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) and have completed a *User Agreement for Pharmacies Requesting Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccine*² may submit claims for payment using the Ministry's Health Network System (HNS) for eligible Ontario residents.

Patient Eligibility:

Ontarians who are five years of age and older that have a valid Ontario Health Card. Pharmacists must not administer the influenza vaccine to children less than five years of age.

Description:

- Eligible Ontario residents may receive a publicly funded influenza vaccine from the pharmacy at no cost. Completion of a consent form for the administration of the injection is required.
- The influenza vaccine cost is covered by the Ontario government through the UIIP.
- For the 2014/2015 season, the publicly funded influenza vaccines available to pharmacies to order³ are: Agriflu®, Vaxigrip®, Fluviral® Fluzone® and Fludac®.

¹ All pharmacists who are registered members with the OCP are required to maintain certification in CPR and First Aid to ensure patient safety.

² The User Agreement outlines requirements for pharmacies in meeting the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) including vaccine ordering, storage and handling; cold chain requirements and incident management; vaccine refrigerators and inspections; and other requirements of the program. A minimum of one trained pharmacist who is registered as such with the OCP must be listed on the respective approved pharmacy's User Agreement with the Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

³ Inclusion of a product in the list of publicly-funded vaccines available for pharmacies to order does not guarantee a supply of the product is available through Public Health Units.

- Pharmacies will be reimbursed \$7.50 per eligible claim for the administrative costs associated with delivering one of the five publicly funded vaccines using its assigned Drug Identification Number (DIN) or Product Identification Number (PIN) if applicable, through the HNS. This includes providing patients with a written record of influenza immunization as per the User Agreement.

Procedures:

- The trained pharmacist who administered the publicly funded influenza vaccine must be identified in the prescriber field on the claim submitted for payment through the HNS using the proper DIN or PIN specific to the publicly funded influenza vaccine that was administered.
- Pharmacists must ensure that the patient’s correct date of birth, the health card number and name (as it appears on the Health Card) are entered accurately as part of the HNS claims submission. Failure to do so especially for non-ODB patients may impact the ability to submit future claims for these patients.

Pharmacy Documentation Requirements:

- Name of Patient
- Name and Lot # of the publicly funded vaccine that was administered
- Time and date the vaccine was administered
- Name and signature of the trained pharmacist who administered the vaccine
- Signed and dated patient consent form
- Written record of influenza immunization provided to the patient

Pharmacies must keep a record of every dose of publicly funded influenza vaccine administered. Pharmacy documentation must be maintained in a readily retrievable format for the purpose of ministry audit and for a minimum of 10 years as part of the patient’s health record.

Payment: \$7.50 per influenza immunization administered by the trained pharmacist

Table 1: Vaccines

DIN PIN	Influenza Product for 2014/2015	Availability
02346850	AGRIFLU® Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics, Inc	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/ 0.5mL; single dose, pre-filled syringe
02223929	VAXIGRIP® Sanofi Pasteur Limited	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/ 0.5mL; 5 mL (multi-dose) vial
02015986	FLUVIRAL® GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/ 0.5mL; 5 mL (multi-dose) vial
PIN 09857501	FLUZONE® Sanofi Pasteur Limited	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/ 0.5mL; 5 mL (multi-dose) vial
02362384	FLUAD® Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics, Inc	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/ 0.5mL; single dose, pre-filled syringe

Pharmacy billing procedure for publicly funded influenza vaccines:

- Claims for the administration fee may only be submitted for publicly funded influenza vaccines delivered by trained pharmacists to eligible Ontarians five years of age and older.
- Claims for the administration fee through the HNS may not be submitted for vaccinations provided by other health-care professionals, such as nurses hired for pharmacy clinics.
- Claims for the administration fee must be submitted using the appropriate DIN or in the case of Fluzone, the applicable PIN. Do not enter a drug cost, mark-up or a dispensing fee.
- Record the lot # and the time and date of the injection in your pharmacy records. Recording vaccine lot numbers and other information is required as per the User Agreement and important in the event of a vaccine recall or an adverse event following the immunization.

For ODB-eligible recipients: The claim submission follows the normal process for submitting claims on the HNS with the following additional information:

- Intervention code 'PS': (Professional Care Services)
- Drug Identification Number (DIN) or PIN for Fluzone: as per the publicly funded influenza vaccine administered.
- Valid Pharmacist ID

For Non-ODB recipients: When submitting a claim for a person who does not have ODB coverage, pharmacists must submit the following information:

- Patient Gender: 'F' = female; 'M' = male
- Patient Date of Birth: Valid YYYYMMDD
- Patient's Ontario Health Card number
- Intervention codes:
 - PS: Professional Care Services
 - ML: Established eligibility coverage (i.e., 1 day of the Plan 'S' coverage)
- Carrier ID: 'S'
- Drug Identification Number (DIN) or PIN for Fluzone: as per the publicly funded influenza vaccine administered.
- Valid Pharmacist ID.

Restrictions:

Not applicable for the following situations; other examples may apply

- The publicly funded influenza immunization service fee may not be claimed for residents of long-term care homes, hospital in-patients or other licensed institutions.
- Patients are expected to provide their health card for the service. Should a patient not have a valid Ontario Health Card, pharmacists may refer him/her to the local Public Health Unit for influenza immunization.
- Administration of non-publicly funded vaccine or injection products will not be reimbursed under the UIIP for influenza immunization or through the ODB HNS for the administration fee.
- Pharmacists may not transfer UIIP influenza vaccine inventory to another pharmacy.
- The ministry does not accept paper claims for pharmacist administered influenza vaccines.
- A pharmacist's recommendation to a physician or a prescriber that a patient get his/her influenza vaccine whether it is publicly funded or not, does not meet the criteria of the Pharmaceutical Opinion Program and is therefore not a billable service under that program.

Reimbursement of Epinephrine Auto-Injection using the Health Network System for Emergency Treatment

In the event of an adverse drug reaction resulting immediately after a pharmacist's administration of the publicly funded influenza vaccine to an eligible Ontarian five years of age and over, the ministry will reimburse pharmacies the acquisition cost of the epinephrine auto-injection when used for emergency treatment in the pharmacy or at the immunization location.

Under the Regulated Health Professions Act, any pharmacist may render emergency first aid or temporary assistance in an emergency situation⁴.

The pharmacist who administered the epinephrine must use their valid pharmacist identification on the claim submitted for payment through the HNS using the proper PIN specific to the epinephrine auto-injection product that was administered for emergency use due to the pharmacist's administration of the influenza immunization injection.

Pharmacy Documentation Requirements

- Name and signature of the pharmacist who administered the epinephrine auto-injection
- Name of the epinephrine auto-injection that was administered
- Name of Patient
- Time and date the epinephrine auto-injection was administered
- Cross-reference to the Vaccine Administration claim for the patient receiving epinephrine

Pharmacies must keep a record when the epinephrine auto-injection was administered for emergency use due to a pharmacist-administered influenza injection.

Pharmacy documentation must be maintained on site at the pharmacy in a readily retrievable format for the purpose of ministry audit and for a minimum of 10 years as part of the patient's health record.

Pharmacy billing procedure:

The acquisition cost of the epinephrine auto-injection will be reimbursed by the Ontario government.

Table 2: Epinephrine Products

PIN	Epinephrine Product	Cost
09857423	Epipen 1/1000 (1mg/mL) DIN 00509558	\$90.77
09857424	Epipen Jr. 0.5mg/mL DIN 00578657	\$90.77
09857439	Allerject 0.15mg/0.15mL Pref autoinjector Pk DIN 02382059	\$87.25
09857440	Allerject 0.3mg/0.3mL Pref autoinjector Pk DIN 02382067	\$87.25

⁴ Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA), the administration of a substance by injection is a controlled act which unauthorized persons are prohibited from performing. Under the *Pharmacy Act, 1991* (PA), certain pharmacists are authorized to inject individuals with epinephrine in the course of providing health care services to an individual (subject to the conditions laid out in regulation under the PA which include the condition that a pharmacist only perform the act for the purpose of patient education and demonstration). Where the administration of a substance by injection is done for the purposes of rendering first aid or temporary assistance in an emergency, the RHPA exempts such injections from the controlled act prohibition regardless of who performs it.

If administering for emergency use, the epinephrine PIN will be billed as a second claim following the influenza vaccine claim on the same day of service. Please note the cost of the epinephrine auto-injection for this transaction will appear in the dispensing fee field of the claim.

Claims must be submitted using the PIN associated with the epinephrine product. Only the acquisition cost of the drug is eligible for reimbursement. Do not enter the DIN or a mark-up or a dispensing fee.

For ODB-eligible recipients: The claim submission follows the normal process for submitting claims on the HNS with the following additional information:

- Intervention code 'PS': Professional Care Services
- Product Identification Number (PIN): as per the epinephrine auto-injection administered.(see above)
- Valid Pharmacist ID

For Non-ODB recipients: When submitting a claim for a person who does not have ODB coverage, pharmacists must submit the following information as the second claim following the vaccine administration claim:

- Patient's Ontario Health Card number
- Intervention codes PS: Professional Care Services
- Product Identification Number (PIN): as per the epinephrine auto-injection administered.(see above)
- Valid Pharmacist ID code must be included with the claim.

Restrictions:

Epinephrine auto-injection will not be reimbursed for the following situations (other examples may apply):

- Providing the epinephrine auto-injection to the patient to self administer or take home (for example: in the event the patient may experience an adverse event after leaving the pharmacy) is not reimbursed by the ministry.
- Pharmacist emergency injection of epinephrine auto-injection that is not due to an adverse drug reaction resulting from the administration of the publicly funded influenza vaccine is not reimbursed by the ministry
- Pharmacist emergency injection of epinephrine auto-injection at a nurse-led pharmacy clinic is not reimbursed by the ministry.
- Pharmacists / pharmacies that are providing any injection or inhalation for the purpose of demonstration or education are not reimbursed by the ministry.
- The ministry does not accept paper claims for epinephrine auto-injection claims submitted for this purpose.