

# Executive Officer Notice: Pharmacist administration of publicly funded influenza vaccines

## For the 2020/21 influenza immunization season

Pharmacists who have completed the required injection training and have registered this training with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) can administer publicly funded injectable influenza vaccine to eligible Ontarians at participating pharmacies.

Pharmacies can submit eligible claims using the ministry's Health Network System (HNS) provided that they:

- have been approved to provide publicly funded influenza vaccines under the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) for the 2020/21 season, and
- have completed the *User Agreement for Pharmacies with a Licensed Injection-Trained Pharmacist Requesting Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines for the 2020/2021 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)*<sup>1</sup>.

## Patient eligibility

People aged five and older who live, work or go to school in Ontario are eligible to receive a publicly funded influenza immunization from a pharmacist. Publicly funded influenza vaccines must be administered free of charge to all eligible individuals.

Administration of vaccine to:

- Individuals with a valid Ontario health number<sup>2</sup> pharmacists must submit claims for payment using the ministry's HNS.
- Individuals without a valid Ontario health number, pharmacists must complete the [Universal Influenza Immunization Program Pharmacy Form](#) and submit it to the Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health. For more information, please contact [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> The User Agreement outlines requirements for pharmacies in meeting the 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 Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, Ministry of Health.

<sup>2</sup>In this Executive Officer Notice and the accompanying Frequently Asked Questions, Ontario health number means Ontario Health Card Number or Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) eligibility number issued by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for some ODB eligible recipients.

## Description and payment

- There is no cost to eligible patients who receive the influenza vaccine when administered by an injection-trained pharmacist.
- Patients must complete a consent form for the administration of the vaccine. Using the assigned drug identification number (DIN), submitted as a claim for payment through the HNS, pharmacies will be reimbursed an administrative fee of \$7.50 per eligible claim for administering the publicly funded injectable influenza vaccine.
- Pharmacies with a UIIP agreement are eligible to access personal protective equipment (PPE) from the ministry’s dedicated supply if needed. The ministry’s supply of PPE should ONLY be used to support the activity of pharmacies administering the flu vaccine.
- Table 1 lists the publicly funded influenza vaccines that are available to pharmacies to order for the 2020/21 season, including patient age requirements for each vaccine<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 1: Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines**

| DIN      | Influenza Product<br>For 2020/21  | Availability  | Eligibility                    |
|----------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 02420783 | FluLaval Tetra<br>GlaxoSmithKline Inc.<br>(Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)          | Intramuscular injection.<br>15 mcg/0.5mL;<br>multi-dose vial                    | 5 years of<br>age and<br>older |
| 02432730 | Fluzone® Quadrivalent<br>Sanofi Pasteur Limited<br>(Quadrivalent influenza vaccine) | Intramuscular injection.<br>15 mcg/0.5mL;<br>multi-dose vial                    | 5 years of<br>age and<br>older |
| 02420643 | Fluzone® Quadrivalent<br>Sanofi Pasteur Limited<br>(Quadrivalent influenza vaccine) | Intramuscular injection.<br>15 mcg/0.5mL; single<br>dose, pre-filled syringe    | 5 years of<br>age and<br>older |
| 02494248 | Flucelvax® Quad<br>Seqirus Limited<br>(Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)              | Intramuscular injection.<br>15 mcg/0.5mL;<br>single dose, pre-filled<br>syringe | 9 years of<br>age and<br>older |

<sup>3</sup> Inclusion of a product in the list of publicly-funded vaccines available for pharmacies to order does not guarantee supply of the product through the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS) or participating pharmaceutical wholesalers, which ever may apply.

| DIN      | Influenza Product<br>For 2020/21   | Availability  | Eligibility                     |
|----------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 02445646 | Fluzone® High-Dose<br>Sanofi Pasteur Limited<br>(High-dose trivalent influenza<br>vaccine) | Intramuscular injection.<br>60 mcg /0.5 mL;<br>single dose, pre-filled<br>syringe | 65 years of<br>age and<br>older |

## Procedures

- The pharmacist who administers the publicly funded influenza vaccine must be identified in the prescriber field on the claim submitted for payment through the HNS using the DIN specific to the publicly funded influenza vaccine administered.
- Pharmacists must ensure that the patient's date of birth (not less than 5 years of age), Ontario health number and name (as it appears on the health card / document) are part of the HNS claims submission.<sup>4</sup> Failure to do so – especially for non-Ontario Drug Benefit patients – may impact the ability to submit future claims for these patients.
- Per the User Agreement, the service also includes providing patients with a written record of their influenza immunization injection.

## Pharmacy documentation requirements

Pharmacies must keep a record of every dose of publicly funded influenza vaccine administered. Pharmacy documentation must be maintained in a readily retrievable format as per legislative requirements<sup>5</sup>. Record requirements are:

- Name and address of patient
- Name of vaccine administered, dose, lot number, expiry date, time, date and location of immunization, route and site of administration
- Name, pharmacy address and signature of the trained pharmacist who administered the vaccine
- Signed and dated patient consent form by the patient or the patient's authorized representative or substitute decision maker, as applicable
- Written record of influenza immunization provided to the patient

<sup>4</sup> For claim submission requirements for ODB program recipients without an Ontario health card, please refer to section 6.15 of the Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to o.Reg.264/16, s.21 (made under the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulations Act*); O.Reg 202/94 s. 34(3), paragraph 6 (made under the *Pharmacy Act*, 1991).

- Written record of any adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) that may or may not result in the administration of epinephrine, and the circumstances relating to the administration of the substance
- Pharmacists are required by law to report AEFIs. Reports should be made using the [Ontario Adverse Events Following Immunization Reporting Form](#) and sent to the local [public health unit](#)<sup>6</sup>

Pharmacy documentation must also meet Ontario College of Pharmacists' policies and guidelines, including the College's [Record Retention, Disclosure and Disposal Guidelines](#) and [Documentation Guidelines](#).

## Pharmacy billing procedure for publicly funded vaccine

Claims submission requirements for Ontario Drug Benefit-eligible recipients and Non-Ontario Drug Benefit recipients can be accessed in the [Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual](#) Section 6.15.

## Restrictions to the UIIP

Restrictions include:

- Pharmacists who have entered into an UIIP User Agreement for 2020/2021 are permitted to administer a publicly funded influenza vaccine outside the boundaries of the pharmacy, if the vaccine is administered within the geographic boundaries of the public health unit where their pharmacy is located. In addition, pharmacists must not administer the vaccine to hospital in-patients and residents living in licensed long-term care homes.
- Pharmacies should ensure that vaccine is being stored, transported and monitored appropriately when removing and administering doses outside the pharmacy. Please contact your local public health unit for assistance.
- If a patient does not have a valid Ontario health number, a pharmacist can still administer the influenza vaccine provided the patient possesses valid documentation that they live, work or study in Ontario. It should be noted, however, that the pharmacist will not be paid any administration fee for these doses and cannot pass the fee onto the patient.
  - Alternatively, pharmacists may refer patients to the local [Public Health Unit](#) for influenza immunization
  - If the pharmacist does administer the vaccine to a patient without an Ontario health number, the pharmacist must complete the [Universal Influenza Immunization Program Pharmacy Form](#) and submit it to the

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<sup>6</sup> For complete reporting requirements, please refer to the pharmacy [User Agreement](#) for adverse events. For additional information, please contact your local public health unit. Refer to the ministry website for a list of [Ontario public health units](#).

ministry for tracking purposes. For more information, please contact [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca)

- Administration of non-publicly funded influenza vaccine products that are privately purchased by the pharmacy do not qualify for reimbursement.
- Pharmacists may not transfer publicly funded influenza vaccine inventory to another pharmacy.
- The ministry does not accept paper claims for pharmacist administered influenza vaccines.
- A pharmacist's recommendation to a prescriber that a patient should receive an influenza vaccine, whether it is eligible for public funding or not, is not a billable service under the Pharmaceutical Opinion Program.

## Reimbursement of epinephrine auto-injector for emergency treatment after administration of the influenza vaccine

In the event of an adverse event resulting immediately after a pharmacist's administration of the publicly funded influenza vaccine to a person aged five or older with a valid Ontario health number, the ministry will reimburse pharmacies for the acquisition cost of the epinephrine auto-injector up to the total amount reimbursed (see Table 2). Emergency treatment must take place in the pharmacy or at the immunization location in accordance with the User Agreement.

For information on claims submission, documentation requirements and restrictions please refer to the [Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual](#) Section 6.15.

**Table 2: Epinephrine products and reimbursement for 2020/21**

| PIN      | Epinephrine Product                  | Total Amount Reimbursed |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 09857423 | Epipen 1/1000 (1mg/1mL) DIN 00509558 | \$94.44                 |
| 09857424 | Epipen Jr. 0.5mg/mL DIN 00578657     | \$94.44                 |
| 09857439 | Allerject 0.15mg/0.15mL DIN 02382059 | \$94.35                 |
| 09857440 | Allerject 0.3mg/0.3mL DIN 02382067   | \$94.35                 |
| 09858129 | Emerade 0.3mg/0.3mL Inj DIN 02458446 | \$85.54                 |
| 09858130 | Emerade 0.5mg/0.5mL Inj DIN 02458454 | \$85.54                 |

## Pharmacy billing procedures

The value indicated in the 'total amount reimbursed' column (Table 2) for the epinephrine auto-injector will be reimbursed by the Ontario government, if applicable.

Pharmacy staff must use the product identification number (PIN) of the epinephrine product and bill as a second claim following the influenza vaccine claim on the same day of service. Do not enter the DIN, a mark-up or a dispensing fee.

The ministry does not accept paper claims for epinephrine auto-injector claims.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **For pharmacies:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

#### **For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:**

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.