

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**
**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Médecin hygiéniste en chef

 Public Health Division
11th Floor, Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3

 Division de la santé publique
Édifice Hepburn, 11e étage
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1R3

 Telephone: (416) 212-3831
Facsimile: (416) 325-8412

 Téléphone: (416) 212-3831
Télécopieur: (416) 325-8412

September 1, 2011

TO: Ontario Pharmacists
RE: The Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) - 2011/2012

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to provide you with information on Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) – 2011/2012. This information applies to clinics held within the premises of a community pharmacy and does not apply to pharmacies within institutions (e.g., hospitals, long-term care homes, etc.) that only provide services to patients/residents.

This information also applies to clinics held where publicly funded trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine is provided. It does not apply to clinics where alternative influenza vaccines not currently available through the UIIP are being administered. The prequalification agreement is for the storage, handling and transport of publicly funded influenza vaccine. Pharmacies wishing to provide alternate influenza vaccines (not available through the UIIP) can still participate in the UIIP. However, if non-publicly funded influenza vaccine is being administered this information must be clearly communicated to vaccine recipients.

Vaccine Supply and Delivery

Influenza Vaccine Supply for the UIIP 2011/2012	
Vaccine Strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus • A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus • B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.
Vaccine Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriflu[®] - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine in pre-loaded single dose syringes) • Vaxigrip[®] - produced by Sanofi Pasteur (trivalent inactivated vaccine in multi-dose vial) • Fluad[®] - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine with adjuvant targeted to individuals ≥65 years of age and older and available in Ontario for residents of Long-Term Care Homes)

The ministry has announced that immunization clinics can begin the first week of October, 2011. Please consult with your local public health unit to determine vaccine availability for your clinics.

The Flud[®] vaccine is reserved in Ontario for individuals aged 65 years or older who live in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs). Ontario pharmacists should not expect to receive this vaccine for their clinics. This vaccine will be provided to LTCHs only, through auto-shipments by the local public health units.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) UIIP 2011/2012 Recommendations

- All individuals aged 6 months or older who live, work or attend school in Ontario, and who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive the publicly funded influenza vaccine (Agriflu[®] or Vaxigrip[®]).
- All residents of Ontario LTCHs, who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive publicly funded Flud[®] vaccine through the UIIP for protection from the influenza virus.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Recommendations

The NACI *Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for 2011/2012* is not yet available. When published, the NACI statement will be available on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#). The ministry will notify you when the NACI statement becomes available.

Promotional Materials for the UIIP

Promotional materials and publications for the UIIP will be available from [Service Ontario](#).

Access to UIIP Information

The UIIP manual and program materials such as the fact sheet and vaccine ordering and reporting forms and this letter, etc. will continue to be available from the [ministry's website](#).

Administration of Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccine at Pharmacy-Based Clinics

Pharmacy-based clinics must retain the services of a health care agency that has completed the prequalification process with the ministry prior to the start of the 2011/2012 UIIP. Pharmacies interested in providing influenza immunization clinics are encouraged to contact the local public health unit for a list of qualified health care agencies that can be contacted to administer publicly funded influenza vaccine.

Reimbursement for Pharmacy Based Clinics

In order for pharmacy-based clinics to be eligible for reimbursement by the ministry at \$5.00 per dose of influenza vaccine administered, **ALL** of the following criteria must be met:

- pharmacy based clinics must be held within the physical boundaries of pharmacies;
- pharmacy based clinics must retain the services of a health care agency that has completed the prequalification process to administer publicly funded influenza vaccine;
- the clinic must be open to the public (i.e., open and accessible to any eligible vaccine recipient who lives, works or attends school in Ontario);
- widely advertised in the community (e.g., local newspaper, posters, etc.). The vaccine can only be administered in a location within the jurisdiction of the local public health unit where the vaccine was obtained;
- only administration of publicly-funded influenza vaccine will be reimbursed (e.g., vaccine administered must not be obtained from a private supplier);
- all publicly funded influenza immunizations must be provided free of charge to the vaccine recipients; and
- the ministry must not be billed for influenza immunizations through another mechanism.

It is the responsibility of the pharmacy owner or pharmacist to ensure that information on the *Vaccine Utilization Invoice Pharmacy Based* form is completed in full prior to submission and that the following information is reported to the ministry on the invoice for all vaccine recipients at the clinic:

- all vaccine doses administered and wasted by lot number; and
- gender and age breakdown by group (risk group or general population).

All pharmacy based invoices must be submitted to the local public health unit as soon as possible but no more than **10 days** after the date of the influenza immunization clinics. Invoices must be signed by:

- 1) the authorized signing officer of the pharmacy who can provide a valid Ontario Drug Benefits Number (ON0); and
- 2) the health care agency retained to administer the vaccine.

Note: The authorized signing officer should be a health care professional as defined under the [Regulated Health Care Professions Act, 1991](#). Approved invoices will be forwarded by the local public health unit to the ministry.

Invoices that are incomplete or received after January 30, 2012 will not be processed. Invoices without a valid ON0 number cannot be paid as the ministry has no other means of providing reimbursement.

Enclosed, please find the *Vaccine Utilization Invoice Pharmacy Based* form to facilitate data collection of all doses of influenza vaccine administered through reimbursable pharmacy-based clinics.

For further questions or concerns regarding the UIIP, please contact your [local public health unit](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Dr. David C. Williams

David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Health Protection & Prevention

c: Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Units
Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Program Managers, Public Health Units
Erik Wiersma, A/Manager, Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply
Service (OGPMSS), Customer Service

Attachment

- Vaccine Utilization Invoice Pharmacy Based Form