

## Notice from the Executive Officer: Pharmacist Administration of Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines and Claims Submission using the Health Network System

### For the 2018/19 Influenza Immunization Season

Pharmacists who have completed the required injection training and have registered such training with the Ontario College of Pharmacists may administer the publicly funded influenza vaccine (i.e., injectable and nasal spray format<sup>1</sup>) to eligible Ontarians at participating pharmacies.

Further, pharmacies that have been approved to provide publicly funded influenza vaccine under the Universal Influenza Immunization Program for the 2018/19 season and have completed a *User Agreement for Pharmacies Requesting Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccine*<sup>2</sup> may submit eligible claims using the ministry's Health Network System.

### Patient eligibility

Individuals who are five years of age or 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 card: Pharmacists may submit claims for payment using the ministry's Health Network System.
- Without a valid Ontario health card: Pharmacists must complete the [Influenza Vaccine Utilization Report](#) form, and submit it to the Population Public Health Division. For more information, please contact [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Administration of the nasal spray influenza vaccine does not require the same pharmacist training as the injectable.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Ontario College of Pharmacists must be listed on the respective approved pharmacy's User Agreement with the Population Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

## Description and Payment

- There is no cost to eligible patients who receive the influenza vaccine at the pharmacy.
- Completion of a patient consent form for the administration of the vaccine is required.
- Using its assigned drug identification number (DIN), submitted as a claim for payment through the Health Network System, pharmacies will be reimbursed:
  - \$7.50 per eligible claim for the administrative costs associated with administering a publicly funded injectable vaccine.
  - \$5.00 per eligible claim for the administration of the nasal spray vaccine.
- Refer to Table 1 for the list of publicly funded influenza vaccines that are available to pharmacies to order for the 2018/19 season, including patient age requirements for each vaccine<sup>3</sup>. The list is restricted to quadrivalent vaccines only; the Fluzone® High-Dose trivalent vaccine is not available for pharmacies to order<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 1: Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines**

DIN	Influenza Product For 2018/19	Availability	Eligibility
02420783	FluLaval Tetra® GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/0.5mL; multi-dose vial	5 years of age and older
02432730	Fluzone® Quadrivalent Sanofi Pasteur Limited (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/0.5mL; multi-dose vial	5 years of age and older
02420643	Fluzone® Quadrivalent Sanofi Pasteur Limited (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)	Intramuscular injection. 15 mcg/0.5mL; single dose, pre-filled syringe	5 years of age and older
02426544	FluMist® Quadrivalent AstraZeneca Canada (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)	Intranasal spray. 10 <sup>6.5-7.5</sup> FFU/0.2 mL; single dose, pre-filled sprayer	5 to 17 years of age (inclusive)

<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 is available through the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGMPSS) or participating pharmaceutical wholesaler, whichever may apply.

<sup>4</sup> Pharmacists should refer patients aged 65 years and older who request Fluzone® High-Dose trivalent vaccine to their primary care provider.

## 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 Health Network System using the drug identification number 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 card number and name (as it appears on the health card) are part of the Health Network System claims submission. Failure to do so – especially for non-Ontario Drug Benefit patients – may impact the ability to submit future claims for these patients.
- Per User Agreement, the service also includes providing patients with a written record of their influenza immunization injection.

## Pharmacy documentation requirements

- Name and address of patient
- Name of vaccine administered, dose, lot number, expiry date, time and date 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
- Written record of any serious adverse drug reaction that may or may not result in the administration of epinephrine, and the circumstances relating the administration of the substance
- Written record of any adverse events following immunizations. Pharmacists are required by law to report adverse events following immunizations. Reports should be made using the [Ontario Adverse Events Following Immunization Reporting Form](#) and sent to the local [public health unit](#)<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</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](#).

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>6</sup>. Pharmacists must also meet Ontario College of Pharmacists' policies and guidelines, including the [College's Record Retention, Disclosure and Disposal Guideline](#) and [Documentation Guidelines](#).

## Pharmacy billing procedure for publicly funded vaccine

### *For Ontario Drug Benefit-eligible recipients*

The claim submission follows the normal process for submitting claims on the Health Network System with the following additional information:

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

### *For Non-Ontario Drug Benefit recipients*

When submitting a claim for a person who does not have Ontario Drug Benefit 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: as per the publicly funded influenza vaccine administered
- Valid Pharmacist ID

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<sup>6</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*).

## Restrictions to the Universal Influenza Immunization Program

Restrictions include:

- The publicly funded influenza immunization service fee may not be claimed for residents of long-term care homes, patients in hospital or other institutions licensed by the ministry such as homes for special care.
- If a patient does **not** have a valid Ontario health card number, a pharmacist can still administer the influenza vaccine provided the patient possesses valid documentation that he/she lives, works or studies 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 him/her to the local Public Health Unit for influenza immunization.
  - If the pharmacist does administer the vaccine to a patient without an Ontario health card number, the pharmacist must complete the [Influenza Vaccine Utilization Report](#) form, and submit it to the 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 ought to get his/her 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-Injection for Emergency Treatment using the Health Network System

In the event of an adverse drug reaction resulting immediately after a pharmacist's administration of the publicly funded influenza vaccine to an eligible individual five years of age and over with a valid Ontario health card number, the ministry will reimburse pharmacies for the acquisition cost of the epinephrine auto-injection up to the total amount reimbursed (see Table 2 below). Emergency treatment must take place in the pharmacy or at the immunization location. Pharmacists may only submit claims for payment using the ministry's Health Network System for epinephrine auto-injection of individuals with a valid Ontario health card number.

### Pharmacy documentation requirements

- Name, pharmacy address and signature of the pharmacist who administered the epinephrine auto-injection
- Name, strength/dose (where applicable) and quantity of the epinephrine auto-injection administered
- Name and address of patient
- Time and date the epinephrine auto-injection was administered
- Cross-reference to the influenza immunization 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 vaccine.

Pharmacy documentation must be maintained in a readily retrievable format as per legislative requirements<sup>7</sup>.

### Pharmacy billing procedures

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

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<sup>7</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*).

## Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Ontario Public Drug Programs

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

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

**Table 2: Epinephrine Products**

PIN	Epinephrine Product	Total Amount Reimbursed
09857423	Epipen 1/1000 (1mg/1mL) DIN 00509558	\$94.44
09857424	Epipen Jr. 0.5 mg/mL DIN 00578657	\$94.44
09857597	Auvi-Q 0.3mg/0.3mL *	\$179.35
09857598	Auvi-Q 0.15mg/0.5mL *	\$179.35

\*Please note: Temporary coverage for Auvi-Q only if Epipen/Epipen Jr. is not available due to supply shortage.

### *For ODB-eligible recipients*

The claim submission follows the normal process for submitting claims on the Health Network System with the following additional information:

- Intervention code 'PS': Professional Care Services
- Product Identification Number: as per the epinephrine auto-injection administered (see Table 2 above)
- Valid Pharmacist ID code

*For Non-ODB recipients*

When submitting a claim for a person who does not have Ontario Drug Benefit 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: as per the epinephrine auto-injection administered (see Table 2 above)
- Valid Pharmacist ID code