

Notice: Pharmacist administration of publicly funded influenza vaccines and claims submission using the Health Network System

For the 2019/20 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 2019/20 season, and
- have completed the *User Agreement for Pharmacies with a Licensed Injection-Trained Pharmacist Requesting Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines for the 2019/2020 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)*¹.

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 card
 - pharmacists must submit claims for payment using the ministry's HNS.
- Without a valid Ontario health card
 - 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

Description and payment

¹ 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.

- There is no cost to eligible patients who receive the influenza vaccine at the pharmacy.
- 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 administrative fee of:
 - \$7.50 per eligible claim with each publicly funded injectable influenza vaccine administered.

Note: Nasal spray vaccine, Flumist® Quadrivalent is not available for the 2019/20 influenza season. Therefore, no claims should be submitted for this vaccine.

- Refer to Table 1 for the list of publicly funded influenza vaccines that are available to pharmacies to order for the 2019/20 season, including patient age requirements for each vaccine².

Table 1: Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines

DIN	Influenza Product for 2019/20	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
02473283	Afluria® Tetra Seqirus Limited (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine)	Intramuscular injection 15mcg/0.5mL; single dose; pre-filled syringe	5 years of age and 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

² 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.

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 card number and name (as it appears on the health card) are part of the HNS 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 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 requirements³. Record requirements are:

- 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 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
- Written record of any AEFIs. 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](#)⁴

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

For Ontario Drug Benefit-eligible recipients

³ 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).

⁴ 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](#).

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

Restrictions to the UIIP

Restrictions include:

- The publicly funded influenza immunization administrative fee may not be claimed for residents of long-term care homes, patients in hospital, or residents of 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 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 card number, the pharmacist must complete the [Universal Influenza Immunization Program Pharmacy Form](#) and submit it to the ministry for tracking purposes. For more information, please contact 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 using the Health Network System

In the event of an adverse event following influenza resulting immediately after a pharmacist's administration of the publicly funded influenza vaccine to person aged five or older with a valid Ontario health card 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. Pharmacists may only submit claims for payment for emergency treatment after administration of the influenza vaccine using the ministry's HNS for epinephrine auto-injector 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-injector
- Name, strength/dose (where applicable) and quantity of the epinephrine auto-injector administered
- Name and address of patient
- Time and date the epinephrine auto-injector was administered
- Cross-reference to the influenza immunization administration claim for the patient receiving epinephrine

Pharmacies must keep a record when the epinephrine auto-injector 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 requirements⁵.

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.

Table 2: Epinephrine Products

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

For Ontario Drug Benefit-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-injector administered (see Table 2)
- Valid Pharmacist ID code

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 as the second claim following the vaccine administration claim:

- Patient’s Ontario health card number
- Intervention code PS: Professional Care Services
- Product Identification Number (PIN): as per the epinephrine auto-injector administered (see Table 2)
- Valid Pharmacist ID code

⁵ 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).