Questions and Answers for Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies

Effective October 3, 2022

This Questions and Answers document accompanies the most recent Executive Officer (EO) Notice on the Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies available on the ministry website.

For more information:

- Access the ministry website for COVID-19 treatments in Ontario
- Access Ontario Health's COVID-19 Health System Response Materials
- For Health Network System claims issues, pharmacy staff may contact the ministry's Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Help Desk and refer to the Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual

Overview

1. **How will the public know which pharmacies in Ontario are providing publicly funded Evusheld™?**

Only pharmacies with a Health Network System account and billing privileges under the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* are eligible to dispense publicly funded Evusheld™. It is up to each eligible pharmacy to decide whether it will participate in this publicly funded initiative.

2. **How do pharmacies obtain Evusheld™?**

Pharmacies will order publicly funded Evusheld™ (at zero drug cost) through participating pharmaceutical distributors (Shoppers Drug Mart or McKesson). Pharmacies should contact a participating pharmaceutical distributor for details on the ordering process. **Pharmacies will be required to pay a distribution cost**; however, this is reimbursed through the fee for Evusheld™.

As Evusheld™ requires refrigerated storage (at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius), appropriate cold chain storage and handling as per product monograph must be maintained.

Eligibility

3. Who is eligible to receive Evusheld™?

Please refer to the most recent Executive Officer (EO) Notice on the Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies available on the ministry website for information about patient eligibility.

4. Do pharmacists have to confirm whether the patient has a negative COVID-19 test result prior to dispensing Evusheld™? If so, what documentation is required?

No. A negative COVID-19 test result is not required. However, before receiving Evusheld™, eligible individuals should be screened to ensure they are not currently symptomatic or known to be infected with COVID-19. Individuals must also be screened to ensure they have no recent high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 during the close contact's period of communicability. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR), rapid antigen, and antibody testing are not required prior to receiving Evusheld™.

5. Is there any follow-up required after Evusheld™ has been dispensed?

As with any prescription dispensed, pharmacists must follow the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Standards of Practice, which may require following up with the patient according to their individual needs.

6. Can a person who does not have an Ontario health number still receive Evusheld™ at a pharmacy?

Yes. Evusheld™ can be dispensed to someone ***without*** an Ontario health number provided they have other valid identification confirming their name and date of birth and they live, work, or study in Ontario or they are visiting Ontario from another province/territory or country, and they meet the other applicable eligibility criteria.

If a pharmacy supplies publicly funded Evusheld™ to an eligible individual who does not have a valid Ontario health number, then the pharmacy must submit the claim for payment using the Proxy Patient ID.

Please refer to the ministry website for the most recent EO Notice entitled "Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies".

7. Can a patient be an ODB recipient and not have an Ontario health number?

Yes. There may be circumstances where a patient who is an eligible ODB recipient does **not** have an Ontario health card number. For these individuals, the temporary eligibility number (e.g., issued by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services or by a Home and Community Care Support Services organization) must be used for the HNS claim submission.

8. Can a pharmacist still submit a claim for payment for supplying publicly funded Evusheld™ if a patient forgot to bring their Ontario health number?

No. If the patient has an Ontario health number, then the pharmacist needs the patient's Ontario health number in order to submit the claim for payment through the HNS. The Proxy Patient ID cannot be used for these patients.

Ministry Payment

9. How much does the ministry pay pharmacies for dispensing Evusheld™?

The ministry will pay the pharmacy a dispensing fee as noted in Table 1 in the EO Notice for dispensing publicly funded Evusheld™ to an eligible patient, when a claim for payment using one of the appropriate PINs (depending on the dose dispensed) is submitted through the HNS. This fee includes a distribution cost (depending on the number of units dispensed). Note: Primary pharmacy service providers of LTC homes are reimbursed through the LTC home capitation model and will **not** be paid a dispensing fee. Except in emergency situations (e.g., if a primary pharmacy service provider has issues with obtaining supply or delivery of product due to cold chain requirements), secondary pharmacy service providers (i.e., those that do not have a contract with a LTC home) are also **not eligible** for a dispensing fee for supplying publicly funded Evusheld™ to LTC

home residents who are eligible patients. Pharmacies not eligible to receive a dispensing fee must submit claims for Evusheld™ with a zero-dollar fee.

Pharmacist Training

10. Are all Ontario pharmacists able to dispense publicly funded Evusheld™ to eligible Ontarians?

Evusheld™ is a prescription medication and as such can be dispensed by any Part A pharmacist (or registered pharmacy student or intern under the supervision of a pharmacist) in Ontario.

(Note: Pharmacists (emergency assignment or EA) are able to practise to the full scope of their certificate of registration and must be supervised by a Part A pharmacist.)

All pharmacies with a Health Network System (HNS) account and valid HNS Subscription Agreement are eligible to dispense publicly funded Evusheld™ to eligible Ontarians. Pharmacies are required to ensure that patients meet applicable eligibility criteria (see Questions #3 and #4).

Similar to other prescription drugs, Evusheld™ must be dispensed in accordance with the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Standards of Practice, which include: patient identification, a review of the patient's drug history, counselling on how it is administered, proper storage instructions and possible side effects, documentation and follow-up if needed. Pharmacists must ensure they have sufficient knowledge, skills and expertise when dispensing any medication including Evusheld™. Pharmacists are reminded that every prescription must be reviewed for completeness and appropriateness, and to review patient personal health information for drug therapy problems, drug interactions, therapeutic duplications and any other potential problems.

11. What other resources are available regarding Evusheld™?

The following are useful resource information regarding Evusheld™:

- Evusheld™ Product Monograph: Full details on interactions and contraindications
- Information about Evushled™ – developed by Ontario Health's Evusheld Clinical Working Group based on best available evidence at the time

- Patient handout on Evusheld – developed by Ontario Health

Pharmacy Participation

12. Will all Ontario pharmacies provide publicly funded Evusheld™ for pre-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19?

All pharmacies with a Health Network System (HNS) account and valid HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry are able to order and dispense publicly funded Evusheld™ pursuant to a valid prescription. As there is no time restriction for when it is administered, Evusheld™ should only be ordered upon receipt of a valid prescription from a prescriber.

13. What other procedures must be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Pharmacy professionals should continue to follow the guidelines set out by public health officials. Pharmacies have a shared responsibility for informing and educating the public on COVID-19, including promoting infection prevention and control measures. Resources can be found on the Ontario College of Pharmacists website as well as Ministry Guidance at this website.

Documentation Guidelines

14. What are pharmacists required to document when dispensing Evusheld™ to eligible patients?

Please refer to the most recent Executive Officer (EO) Notice on the Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies available on the ministry website for information about pharmacy documentation requirements.

15. What will happen if I forget to document or misplace the documentation?

If there is no documentation, incorrect or incomplete documentation, the dispensing fee that is billed and paid may be subject to recovery by the ministry.

Claim for payment through the Health Network System

16. How are claims for Evusheld™ submitted through the HNS?

Please refer to the most recent Executive Officer (EO) Notice on the Supplying of Publicly Funded Evusheld™ for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis of COVID-19 in Ontario Pharmacies available on the ministry website for information.

Restrictions

17. Can pharmacists submit claims for Evusheld™ manually to the ministry, using a paper claim?

No. The ministry does not accept paper claims unless 3 intervention codes are required in order to process the claim. All claims must be submitted electronically using the HNS.

18. What is the recommended dose for Evusheld™? If a patient previously received a dose of Evusheld™, how soon can they receive another dose?

Please refer to the clinical guidance for updated recommendations on dosages.

The recommend dose Evusheld™ is 300mg, administered as two separate sequential intramuscular (IM) injections (150 mg tixagevimab and 150 mg cilgavimab) at different injection sites, preferably one in each of the gluteal muscles.

The product monograph recommends consideration of increasing the dose to 600 mg in regions where the variants BA.1 and BA.1.1 are circulating. An increased dose of 600 mg (300 mg tixagevimab and 300 mg cilgavimab) is being used in other jurisdictions to address emerging evidence on reduced activity against currently circulating subvariants. Clinical judgement should be exercised when determining the dose of Evusheld™.

A patient may be prescribed and receive a 600mg dose for example[1], if the patient:

- has not previously received Evusheld™ OR
- it has been three months or more since they received a low dose of Evusheld™ (300mg) OR

[1] Based on FDA guidance: FDA authorizes revisions to Evusheld dosing | FDA Evusheld Healthcare Providers FS 06292022 (fda.gov)

- it has been six months or more since they received a high dose of Evusheld™ (600mg)

A single claim for the dispensing fee may be submitted for example, for the 300mg dose if prescribed and if it has been less than three months since they received a low dose of Evusheld™ (300mg).

There is limited safety and no efficacy data available on repeat dosing. Clinical discretion is advised.

19. Can Evusheld™ be administered at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine?

In individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, Evusheld™ should be administered at least 2 weeks after vaccination. If a patient is currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine dose, they should receive the vaccine before receiving Evusheld™. There is no data available regarding COVID-19 vaccination after Evusheld™ administration.