

Alberta Health Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as applied to vulnerable populations living in congregate living settings

Through the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP), the Alberta Health Influenza Antiviral Drug Policy as applied to vulnerable populations living in congregate living settings facilitates the funding and provision of antiviral drugs at no cost to vulnerable populations living in a congregate living setting.

Vulnerable population refers to individuals living in Alberta who are at a higher risk of suffering more significant consequences from influenza than the general population, as determined by a Medical Officer of Health (MOH), due to one or more factors that include, but are not limited to, age, chronic health conditions or multiple health conditions.

Congregate living setting refers to a supportive living accommodation to which the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act applies. This includes homeless shelters, group homes and any other place in Alberta (excluding Lloydminster) that provides a form of congregate living to individuals who are members of a vulnerable population. Residents of a nursing home (under the Nursing Homes Act) who have been prescribed an antiviral by a physician or patients in a hospital (under the Hospitals Act) are not eligible for the funding and provision of influenza antivirals under this policy.

An individual is eligible for the funding and provision of an antiviral drug under this policy at no personal cost if an MOH has confirmed the individual is a member of a vulnerable population and lives in a congregate living setting. In these cases, using an antiviral drug may be necessary to manage the spread of influenza or Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) for public health purposes.

Antiviral prescriptions should be treated as a priority and dispensed in a manner that meets the needs of the client, such as compliance packaging. As per the policy, there should be no charge to the eligible person for any antiviral prescription costs.

Claims process

To receive compensation for eligible oseltamivir prescriptions, claims must include the following data elements:

- Carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan).
- Group number 23464, section 000, for all transactions.
- Pharmacist identification number.
- Client number: client's Personal Health Number (PHN).
In the case of Albertans with no PHN, such as those in homeless shelters, HL0000000 must be used.
- Client's full name: last and first name.
- Client's date of birth.
- Client's gender.
- Relationship code: is your software requires you to enter a relationship code, use zero (0) as the default.
- Prescriber reference ID number.
- Service date.
- DIN (for the oseltamivir product).
- Quantity (of oseltamivir dispensed).
- Payment amount (medication cost, upcharges and dispensing fee).
- Prescriber reference code 86.
- Pharmacy license number.

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The outbreak number is no longer required to be included for claim validation. You must still record the outbreak number in the patient file information as this may be required for post-claim verification purposes.

The following oseltamivir and zanamivir products are eligible for coverage:

DIN	Product description
00002381842	Tamiflu 6 mg/mL oral suspension
00002241472	Tamiflu 75 mg capsule
00002304848	Tamiflu 30 mg capsule
00002304856	Tamiflu 45 mg capsule
00002497425	Jamp Oseltamivir 75 mg capsule
00002497409	Jamp Oseltamivir 30 mg capsule
00002497379	Mar-Oseltamivir 75 mg capsule
00002497360	Mar-Oseltamivir 45 mg capsule
00002497352	Mar-Oseltamivir 30 mg capsule
00002499894	Nat-Oseltamivir 6 mg/mL oral suspension
00002457989	Nat-Oseltamivir 75 mg capsule
00002472643	Nat-Oseltamivir 45 mg capsule
00002472635	Nat-Oseltamivir 30 mg capsule
00002240863	Relenza 5 mg/dose inhalation disk

Important: Oseltamivir must be used in accordance with the Health Canada-approved product monograph.

In the rare instance where no commercial products are suitable or available, an oseltamivir compound may be claimed using the PIN 00999999. Claims for oseltamivir prescriptions billed to other Government of Alberta drug plans, such as Coverage for Seniors (Group 66), are not eligible for coverage.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

