

# Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Pharmacy Information  
Bulletin No. 650  
October 16, 2017

## Influenza Immunization Program (IIP) 2017-18

The official starting date of the Ministry's 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is October 23, 2017.

See **Pharmacy Information Bulletin #648 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program 2017-18 Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccine Distribution** for information on the publicly funded influenza vaccine products and vaccine distribution to pharmacies in Saskatchewan and Lloydminster, Alberta.

The Ministry did not purchase FluMist® as a publicly funded vaccine for the 2017-18 season. Only quadrivalent injectable influenza vaccine is available for the publicly funded program.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) will pay an Influenza Immunization Fee (IIF) to pharmacies according to Table 1, (Influenza Immunization Billing Code and Billing Threshold/Limitations) commencing on the official starting date of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health annual Seasonal Influenza Program. The IIF will be paid when publicly-funded influenza vaccine is administered:

1. By a licensed pharmacist according to the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP)*;
2. As part of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health annual Seasonal Influenza Program;
3. Within the physical space of a licensed pharmacy;
4. To an eligible patient;
5. By injection or inhalation; and
6. By a licensed pharmacist who has achieved SCPP's Advanced Method Certification.

The IIF payment to the pharmacy includes all activities/expenses related to provision of the vaccination service (e.g. patient assessment, injection supplies, administration of the influenza vaccine, monitoring the patient, drugs and supplies used to manage adverse events following immunization and required record-keeping).

Pharmacies **cannot** use publicly-funded vaccine provided under the Provincial Program to immunize individuals outside of a pharmacy, nor can they submit a claim for the IIF in this circumstance.

**No incentives\* shall be provided** by the Proprietor, or an agent on behalf of the Proprietor, to any other person in relation to the provision of influenza immunization. **"Incentives" means any money, gifts, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.**

Pharmacies can confirm they are on the list of registered pharmacies by checking the list posted on:

- the “Influenza Immunization Program” tab on the online Formulary <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> , or
- the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) website under the Patient’s tab <https://www.skpharmacists.ca/patients/flu-shots> .

Pharmacies that did not register for the 2017-18 season may still do so by contacting DPEBB, and will be able to order the publicly funded vaccine once the DPEBB advises the wholesaler of their registration.

If circumstances change and a pharmacy is no longer able to provide influenza immunizations, contact Arlene Kuntz at the DPEBB at (306) 787-3306 or [arlene.kuntz@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:arlene.kuntz@health.gov.sk.ca) .

The DPEBB Influenza Immunization Program Policy is available on:

- the secure DPEBB WEB page at <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca> , or
- the PAS website under “What’s New” <https://www.skpharmacists.ca/pharmacists> .

The 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists and all current immunization bulletins are available on:

- the secure DPEBB WEB page at <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca> ;
- the “Influenza Immunization Program” tab on the online Formulary at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> , or
- the PAS website under “What’s New” <https://www.skpharmacists.ca/pharmacists> .

**Table 1: Influenza Immunization Billing Code (Fee/Limitations)**

| <b>Billing Code (pseudoDIN)</b> | <b>Influenza Immunization Fee for 2017-2018</b> | <b>Service</b>                  | <b>Billing Threshold/Limitation</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 00951105                        | \$13.00   | Seasonal Influenza Immunization | Maximum of ONE (1) claim in a 190-day period per patient<br><br>Claims can be submitted only after the start date of the Provincial Annual Seasonal Influenza Program and up to March 31 <sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.<br><br>Must be submitted as a Quantity of <b>ONE (1)</b> . |

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

For questions related to **BILLING PROCEDURE**, contact the DPEBB at (306) 787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581.

For questions related to **POLICIES, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS BY INJECTION AND OTHER ROUTES AND ADVANCED METHOD CERTIFICATION**, contact the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) at (306) 584-2292.

For questions related to **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**, contact Myla Wollbaum at the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) at (306) 359-7277.

For questions related to **REGISTRATION OF A PHARMACY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**, contact DPEBB at (306) 787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1. What are the dates for the Ministry 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program?**
  - The Ministry 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is scheduled to begin on October 23, 2017, and ends on March 31, 2018.
  - **Pharmacists cannot administer publicly-funded influenza vaccine before the official starting date of the program on October 23, 2017.**
  
- 2. Do pharmacists need to obtain consent from individuals to administer the influenza vaccine?**
  - Yes, as all immunizations in the Province of Saskatchewan are voluntary. Pharmacists are responsible for obtaining informed written consent before immunization. Pharmacists must follow the requirements for obtaining and documenting consent according to the *Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacists in the Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes, August 2015* of the SCPP at <http://saskpharm.ca/site/quicklinks/referencemanual?nav=sidebar> . The Ministry of Health immunization fact sheet (2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine) must be provided to all individuals to obtain informed consent.
  
- 3. Where can pharmacists get copies of the client-applicable immunization fact sheet (2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine)?**
  - The Ministry of Health 2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine fact sheet is available to order free of charge from the Ministry's publication centre at <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/deplist.cfm?d=13&c=1073> .
  
- 4. Can pharmacists administer the vaccine to the whole family if a family has children younger than nine years of age?**
  - No. Pharmacists can only administer the influenza vaccine to members of a family who are nine years of age and older. A child younger than nine years old **must be referred** to the local Regional Health Authority (RHA) Public Health for administration of the influenza vaccine. Children younger than nine years of age may require one or two doses of influenza vaccine given no less than four weeks apart, depending on previous influenza immunization history. These doses are documented by RHA Public Health.

**5. What do pharmacists advise individuals if FluMist® is requested?**

- Ongoing American studies continue to show that the effectiveness of FluMist® is poor and has not been recommended for use in the United States. As a result, Saskatchewan Public Health will not be offering this product for the 2017-18 influenza season.

**6. What are the reporting requirements if an individual experiences an adverse event following immunization (AEFI)?**

- Complete and AEFI form and submit it **immediately** to your local RHA Public Health as set out in the 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> .

**7. Where can pharmacists get the Ministry wallet cards to provide to individuals as proof of immunization?**

- Post-influenza immunization, all clients should receive a Ministry wallet card bearing the name and date of immunization as proof they received the vaccine. Pharmacies can order wallet cards free of charge from the Ministry's publication centre at <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=82513> .

**8. What are the reporting requirements if there is a cold chain break?**

- **Report all cold chain breaks immediately upon discovery** to Population Health Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, as set out in the 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists.
- Pharmacists will use the *Pharmacy Cold Chain Break Report Form* to report cold chain breaks.
- The reporting form is included as Appendix 6 of the 2017-2018 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists and is available at the following links:
  - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> ; and
  - <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter9.pdf> .
- Information to assist pharmacists in completing the form is included as Appendix 5 in the 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists and is available at the following link:
  - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> .

**9. What are the reporting requirements for vaccine wastage?**

- All wasted influenza vaccine doses, including unused doses at the end of the season, must be **reported immediately** to the Population Health Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, as set out in the 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists.
- The reporting form is included as Appendix 7 of the 2017-18 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Handbook for Pharmacists and is available at the following links:
  - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaProgram.aspx> ; and
  - <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter9.pdf> .

**10. Can a pharmacy buy its own vaccine and charge the individual if they are from out of province?**

- A pharmacy cannot use publicly-funded influenza vaccine to immunize out of province individuals. Out of province individuals can receive the publicly-funded vaccine free of charge from the local RHA Public Health.