



# PharmacareNEWS

## inside

### **Nova Scotia Formulary Updates**

Administration of Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacists for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season

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### **Administration of Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacists for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season**

#### **Who is eligible to have publicly-funded influenza vaccine administered by a pharmacist?**

All individuals 2 years of age and over can have publicly-funded influenza vaccine administered by a pharmacist. As the publicly-funded influenza vaccine is available free of charge, no individual is to be charged for the vaccine.

The expanded age range of 2 years of age and over reflects the April 2020 amendment to the NSCP Standards of Practice for Drug Administration.

Pharmacists must ensure they are competent to administer the influenza vaccine in this younger age group in terms of technique, needle size, site of injection etc. One example of a resource is: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-8-vaccine-administration-practices.html>

Please be advised that **Afluria Tetra** is a new product that will be used this year and is **indicated for patients 5 years of age and older**. Pharmacies will need to be careful to screen for the age of the patient and those age 2-4 should not be provided this product. New PINS have been created for this product and can be found on page 4.

#### **Who is eligible to have the influenza vaccine administration fee publicly-funded?**

Only residents with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card Number are eligible to have the influenza vaccine administration fee billed to DHW. There are no copayments or deductibles associated with the administration of the influenza vaccine for residents with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card Number. All other individuals are responsible for paying any applicable administration fee.

#### **Which pharmacies are eligible to bill for the administration of publicly-funded influenza vaccine?**

Pharmacies set up as providers to bill publicly-funded influenza vaccine administration fees last year are already set up for the 2020-2021 influenza season.

**Administration of Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacists for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season Continued...**

However, all pharmacies are still required to contact their local Nova Scotia Health Authority public health office to confirm their email, dispensary telephone number, and their preferred method for being contacted by public health.

Pharmacies that have not yet been set up as a provider to bill publicly-funded influenza vaccine administration must:

1. Comply with the required training and application expectations set out by the *Pharmacist Extended Practice Regulations* and the NSCP's *Standards of Practice: Drug Administration* which can be found at the following link: [https://www.nspharmacists.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SOP\\_DrugAdministration.pdf](https://www.nspharmacists.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SOP_DrugAdministration.pdf)
2. Sign the *Confirmation of Agreement Form* certifying agreement with the Pharmacy Service Agreement (Appendix III) and submit it to Medavie Blue Cross. Medavie Blue Cross will confirm by email or facsimile that the pharmacy has been set up as a provider to bill influenza vaccine administration fees
3. Pharmacies setting up a pharmacy to provide publicly funded vaccines must contact their public health office. Public health requires additional information prior to setting up a pharmacy as a provider in Panorama. Public health also requires a 7 day temperature log with temperatures documented two times per day to set up a provider to receive publicly funded vaccine.

**Where do pharmacies get publicly-funded influenza vaccine?**

All publicly-funded influenza vaccine must be obtained from the local public health office. The supply and distribution of Fluzone High-Dose will be coordinated by the Provincial Bio-Depot and only pharmacists designated to provide Fluzone HD to residents 65 years of age and older at a LTCF will receive Fluzone HD.

All providers are responsible for any transportation costs to obtain publicly-funded vaccine. Pharmacy orders can be delivered by Med-Express in Central Zone. The Pharmacy must have an account with Med-Express. Pharmacies should contact their local public health office to place their order for vaccine and to arrange pick-up. For flu season 2020-21 during Covid pharmacies will be contacted to book an appointment to pick-up their publicly funded flu vaccine. This is to minimize crowds and possible risk of spreading Covid. Please review the Immunization Toolkit (located at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/immunization-forms>) for information on transporting biologicals to ensure you have all the required equipment when you pick up your vaccine. (e.g. a hard sided cooler which seals properly, ice pack and an insulating layer to ensure the ice does not lay on the vaccine product). Public health can only release vaccine in accordance with this protocol.

**When can pharmacists begin administering publicly-funded influenza vaccine?**

Pharmacists may begin administering publicly-funded influenza vaccine as soon as they receive it.

**How do pharmacies bill DHW for influenza vaccine administration fees?**

***To ensure claims are adjudicated correctly, all influenza claims must be adjudicated using a quantity of 1, as well as the correct DIN and/or PIN.***

Fees for the administration of publicly-funded influenza vaccine to Nova Scotia residents with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card must be billed to DHW online. The electronic claim must contain the following in the patient's insurance field:

- Patient ID – *the patient's Nova Scotia Health Card Number*
- Carrier ID – NS

If a patient is already set up in the pharmacy system with Pharmacare coverage (e.g., Seniors' Pharmacare, Family Pharmacare), a separate patient file does not need to be created.

**Administration of Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacists for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season Continued...**

Claims must be submitted using the DIN of the vaccine administered to the patient, unless the patient is pregnant or is a child receiving a second vaccine dose.

Claims are submitted with the administration fee in the professional fee field. Providers are not reimbursed for ingredient costs or markups for these claims as they are able to access publicly-funded vaccine at no charge.

**What documentation does a pharmacy need to retain for audit and other purposes?**

Pharmacies are advised to maintain a record of the quantity of influenza vaccine administered to individuals who do not have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card Number, as this information may be requested by public health.

**How do I report an adverse event following immunization (AEFI)?**

It is possible that reactions may occur after administration of influenza vaccine, without a causal association to the vaccine. **These reactions must be reported to your local Nova Scotia Health Authority public health office for the appropriate follow-up.** For information of what adverse events to report please review "It's the Law: Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions" (located at <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/CDPC/info-for-professionals.asp>).

Providers should document an AEFI using the Public Health Agency of Canada AEFI form (located at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/reporting-adverse-events-following-immunization/form.html>) and **forward the form to the local public health office.** The local public health office reviews these reports and facilitates with Department of Health and Wellness the reporting of AEFIs to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**What do I do if there is a break in the cold chain?**

Cold chain refers to the process used to maintain optimal conditions during the transport, storage, and handling of vaccines, starting with the manufacturer and ending with the administration of the vaccine. When vaccines are exposed to temperatures of less than 2°C or more than 8°C, the result is a break in the cold chain. Vaccines affected by a break in the cold chain must be packaged separately, identified with a sticker reading "DO NOT USE," and stored in a refrigerator at between 2°C and 8°C separately from vaccines in current use. **Contact your local public health office to determine whether they can be used.**

**Claim Submissions for Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacist**

Fees for the administration of publicly-funded influenza vaccines are for the service of administering the influenza vaccine, not the amount of vaccine administered. Therefore, all influenza claims **must be** adjudicated using a **quantity of 1**, as well as the correct DIN and/or PIN. Claims must not be adjudicated using a quantity <1.

Reports will be generated by Nova Scotia Pharmacare to identify claims adjudicated with an improper quantity (<1) and incorrect PINS (e.g. PIN for pregnant women, used to adjudicate a claim for a male). Pharmacies will be contacted regarding incorrect claims. These claims must be reversed by the pharmacy and resubmitted correctly. Any claims that have been identified on these reports, which are not corrected, may be subject to audit and possible recovery of administration fees.

Administration of Publicly-Funded Influenza Vaccine by Pharmacists for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season Continued...

Claims Submission Field Content for Pharmacist-Administered Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines

CPHA CLAIM STANDARD FIELD #	CPHA CLAIM STANDARD FIELD NAME	CONTENT
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	<p><b>DINs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluzone Quadrivalent MDV 02432730</li> <li>- Fluzone Quadrivalent PFS 02420643</li> <li>- FluLaval Tetra 02420783</li> <li>- Fluzone High-Dose 02445646*</li> </ul> <p>* Only for residents of Long Term Care Facilities (nursing homes and residential care facilities) ≥65 years of age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Afluria Tetra Quadrivalent MDV 02473313**</li> <li>- Afluria Tetra Quadrivalent PFS 02473283**</li> </ul> <p>** Age indication of 5 years of age or older</p> <p><b>PIN for pregnant women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluzone Quadrivalent 93899895</li> <li>- FluLaval Tetra 93899893</li> <li>- Afluria Tetra Quadrivalent 96599953</li> </ul> <p><b>PIN for second dose for children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluzone Quadrivalent 93899896</li> <li>- FluLaval Tetra 93899894</li> <li>- Afluria Tetra Quadrivalent 96599952*</li> </ul> <p>*Age indication of 5 years of age or older</p>
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Pharmacists prescriber ID
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value- not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	\$12.40 until March 31, 2021 \$12.55 effective April 1, 2021