

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Pharmacy Information
Bulletin No. 708
October 16, 2019

Influenza Immunization Program Update 2019-2020

The official start date of the Ministry's 2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is October 21, 2019.

The billing procedure for the 2019-2020 Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) Influenza Immunization Program (IIP) remains the same as in previous years. Pharmacies are reminded that claims for the Influenza Immunization Fee (IIF) will not adjudicate unless the vaccine product has been successfully captured first.

DPEBB will pay an IIF to pharmacies according to Table 1 (Influenza Immunization Billing Code and Billing Threshold/Limitations) commencing on the official start date of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program (SIIP) 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 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program;
3. Within the physical space of a licensed pharmacy, during home visits and in congregate living settings*;
4. To an eligible patient;
5. By injection; and
6. By a licensed pharmacist who has achieved SCPP's Advanced Method Certification.

* **Congregate Living Settings - For the purpose of publicly funded influenza vaccine administration, Congregate Living Settings are defined as for profit or not for profit public or privately owned buildings (e.g., which house residents who may have mobility, accessibility and/or cognitive challenges). They may or may not be licensed by the Government of Saskatchewan. These settings do not receive contracted or ongoing services from public health or other Athabasca Health Authority (AHA), Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), or First Nations Jurisdictions (FNJs) health practitioners, and have no operational affiliation to the AHA, SHA, or FNJ (i.e., are not an AHA, SHA, FNJ or Affiliate facility). Examples of congregate living settings include assisted living/seniors independent housing; group homes; personal care homes; shelters; approved private service homes; and short-term residential facilities.**

Home Visits - The intent of off-site home visits by community pharmacists is to provide enhanced accessibility to those patients at high-risk of influenza related complications and who may have mobility issues or cognitive deficits.

The IIF payment to the pharmacy is for 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).

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 publicly funded influenza immunization. **“Incentives” means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.**

The DPEBB Influenza Immunization Program Policy is available on:

- the secure DPEBB WEB page at <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>; or
- the Influenza Immunization Program tab on the online Formulary <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>.

BILLING PROCEDURE:

1. Provide the vaccination and submit the record of the vaccine product administered electronically for capture to DPEBB on the date of the immunization service using the DIN for the product administered:
 - FluLaval® Tetra multidose vials (DIN 02420783)
 - Fluzone® Quadrivalent multidose vials (DIN 02432730)
2. Submit the claim for the IIF electronically to DPEBB on the same day as the influenza vaccine record using the appropriate pseudoDIN listed in Table 1.

STEP 1: Record of the Vaccine Product Administered

- The record of the vaccine product administered must be **submitted for capture** according to current DPEBB submission requirements.
 - The record of the influenza vaccine product administered must be submitted before the IIF.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the vaccination (e.g., October 21, 2019)
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter your sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number
 - **DIN** = enter the DIN (02420783 for FluLaval® Tetra or 02432730 for Fluzone®)
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = 1
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = 1
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = \$0.00
 - **FEE (DF)** = \$0.00
 - **MARKUP** = 00 / 00 / 00
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = \$0.00
 - **PATIENT PAID** = \$0.00
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y/N
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- Before administering the influenza vaccine, it is expected that pharmacists review the patient's Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) profile and immunization record in the eHR Viewer to confirm whether the patient has previously received a publicly-funded influenza vaccine during the 2019-2020 program.

Step 2: Influenza Immunization Fee (IIF)

- The IIF must be **submitted the same day** as the vaccine record.
 - The DPEBB pays 100% of the IIF to the pharmacy.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = client nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the Influenza Immunization Fee (IIF) (i.e., October 21, 2019)
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter your sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number
 - **DIN** = enter Din (see Table 1)
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = 1 ** refer to limitations according to Table 1
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = 1
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = \$13.00
 - **DISPENSING FEE (DF)** = \$0.00
 - **MARKUP** = 00 / 00 / 00
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = \$13.00
 - **PATIENT PAID** = \$0.00
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y
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- Please note DPEBB will not accept paper claims for the IIF. Your Practice Management System should work with the billing code (pseudoDIN).
 - If you are unable to submit either the record of the vaccine administered or the IIF electronically through your Practice Management System, please use the secure DPEBB WEB page by logging on to <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>.
 - If you are not sure how to install the WEB certificate, please contact your software vendor.

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

Billing Code (pseudoDIN)	Service	Billing Threshold/Limitation
00951105	Influenza Immunization – On Site	Maximum of ONE (1) claim in a 190 day period per patient. Exception: Children 5 to 8 years of age (<9 years old) who have not previously received influenza vaccine. Maximum of TWO (2) claims in a 170 day period per patient with a minimum interval of four weeks between claims. Pharmacies can submit claims between October 21, 2019 and March 31, 2020. Exception: Children requiring two doses that have received their first dose on or prior to March 31, 2020 are eligible to receive their second dose until April 30, 2020. Must be submitted as a Quantity of ONE (1) .
00951107	Influenza Immunization – Off Site	
00951108	Influenza Immunization – 5 to 8 YRS	

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 at 306-584-2292.

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

For questions related to **REGISTRATION OF A PHARMACY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**, contact the DPEBB at 306-787-3317 (Regina), 1-800-667-7581 or email dpebimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the dates for the Ministry 2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program?**

 - The Ministry 2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is scheduled to begin on October 21, 2019, and ends on March 31, 2020.
 - **Pharmacists cannot administer publicly funded influenza vaccine before the official starting date of the program on October 21, 2019.**

2. Do pharmacists need to obtain consent from individuals to administer an influenza vaccine?

- Yes, as all immunizations in the Province of Saskatchewan are voluntary. Pharmacists are responsible for obtaining informed written consent before immunization with a publicly funded or privately purchased vaccine. 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 <https://saskpharm.ca/site/profprac/adminofdrugs?nav=sidebar>. The Ministry of Health immunization fact sheet (*2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine*) must be provided to all individuals to obtain informed consent.

3. Where can pharmacists get copies of the client-applicable seasonal influenza immunization fact sheet (2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine)?

- The Ministry of Health *2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine* fact sheet is available to order free of charge from the Ministry's publication centre at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/immunization-services#immunization-forms-and-fact-sheets>. It is also available on the online Formulary at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>.

4. Can pharmacists administer the vaccine to the whole family if a family has children younger than five years of age?

- The Saskatchewan Influenza Immunization Policy (SIIP) permits pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine to residents of Saskatchewan who are five years of age and older. A **Notification of Administration of Vaccine** form for each child five to eight years of age **must be completed** and sent to the local SHA Public Health office within three business days of vaccine administration. A child younger than five years old **must be referred** to local SHA 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 SHA Public Health.
- Pharmacies are asked to note which SHA Public Health office they send the **Notification of Vaccine Administration** forms to as the Ministry may need this information for analysis and follow-up purposes.

5. Can pharmacists administer the publicly funded or private influenza vaccine in locations other than pharmacies?

- The SIIP permits pharmacists to administer publicly funded influenza vaccine in congregate living settings and during home visits.
- For the purpose of publicly funded influenza vaccine administration, **Congregate Living Settings** are defined as for profit or not for profit public or privately owned buildings (e.g., which house residents who may have mobility, accessibility and/or cognitive challenges). They may or may not be licensed by the Government of Saskatchewan. These settings do not receive contracted or ongoing services from public health or other Athabasca Health Authority (AHA), SHA, or First Nations Jurisdictions (FNJs) health practitioners, and have no operational affiliation to the AHA, SHA, or FNJ (i.e., are not an AHA, SHA, FNJ or Affiliate facility). Examples of congregate living settings include assisted living/seniors independent housing; group homes; personal care homes; shelters; approved private service homes; and short-term residential facilities.

Home Visits - The intent of off-site home visits by community pharmacists is to provide enhanced accessibility to those patients at high-risk of influenza related complications and who may have mobility issues or cognitive deficits.

- For the purpose of providing non-publicly funded influenza vaccine in off-site locations, pharmacists should verify the appropriateness of doing so with the SCPP.

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

- It is recommended that pharmacists review the training video on AEFI reporting prior to the start of the 2019-2020 influenza season. The video is located on the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals website at <https://pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca/cpdpp/Immunization%20and%20Injections.php#TechniqueVideos>.
- Complete an AEFI form and if it is related to a publicly funded vaccine, submit it **immediately** to your local SHA Public Health as set out in the 2019-2020 SIIP at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>. If the AEFI is related to a privately purchased vaccine, the form must be completed and sent directly to Health Canada.

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

- Post-influenza immunization with a publicly funded influenza vaccine, all clients **must** 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://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/82513>.
- In situations where children need a second dose of influenza vaccine four weeks after the initial dose, pharmacists should fill in the date of the second dose on the Ministry wallet card for the parent's information.

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

- **Report all cold chain breaks for publicly funded vaccines immediately upon discovery** to Population Health Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, as set out in the 2019-2020 SIIP.
- The *Cold Chain Break Report Form* is included as Appendix 3 of the 2019-2020 SIIP and is available at the following links:
 - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>; and
 - <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter9.pdf>.
- Information to assist pharmacists in completing the form is included as Appendix 4 in the 2019-2020 SIIP and is available at the following link:
 - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>.

9. What are the reporting requirements for publicly funded 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 2019-2020 SIIP.
- The *Product Wastage Report* form is included as Appendix 5 of the 2019-2020 SIIP and is available at the following links:
 - <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>; 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 SHA Public Health.
- A pharmacy may purchase and charge an out of province individual for a non-publicly funded influenza vaccine if the individual so chooses.
- Pharmacies cannot submit a claim for an IIF to the DPEBB for non-publicly funded influenza vaccine.

11. Can pharmacies provide incentives or rewards under customer loyalty programs when providing the publicly funded influenza immunization?

- **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 publicly funded influenza immunization. **"Incentives" means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.**

12. Children between the ages of five and eight years will require a second dose of influenza vaccine (minimum of four weeks after the first dose) if they have not received the influenza vaccine before. How does a pharmacy submit a claim for capture of the vaccine product and a claim for payment of the IIF if that child turns nine years old before they receive the second required dose?

- The second dose must be recorded in order to track all doses of the vaccine that are administered by pharmacies.
- The claim for capture of the second dose of the vaccine product should be submitted in the usual manner. Refer to **STEP 1: Record of the Vaccine Product Administered** on page 3 of this bulletin.
- The claim for the IIF for the second dose must be submitted using the pseudoDIN 00951105 (Influenza Immunization – On Site).

13. How does a pharmacy submit a claim for capture for the vaccine product and a claim for payment of the IIF if a patient has inadvertently received more than one dose (or more than two doses in children five to nine years of age) of publicly funded influenza vaccine in a season?

- **All doses of publicly funded influenza vaccine** that are administered to a patient must be recorded in order to track all doses of the vaccine that are administered by pharmacies.
- The pharmacy administering the additional dose(s) must contact DPEBB to advise that a patient has received an additional dose and immediately submit a DPEBB paper claim form so that the dose can be recorded in the vaccine administration statistics for that week. The DPEBB paper claim form can be found at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/AppForms.aspx>. E-mail the completed paper claim form to DPEB@health.gov.sk.ca or fax 306-787-8679 **ATTN:** vaccine review.
- The pharmacy administering the additional dose is not eligible to receive the IIF for that dose.