

October 14, 2016

Dear Colleague:

**RE: Antiviral prescriptions for seniors in advance of influenza outbreaks**

In the upcoming weeks, your patients who live in North Zone Supportive Living sites (e.g. lodges, retirement residences, Designated Assisted Living) may be presenting to your office with a request to fill a “**North Zone Antiviral Advance Prescription**”.

Alberta Health Services North Zone kindly requests assistance of NZ physicians in:

- Completing the physician prescription (Advance Prescription for Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) Prophylaxis for Confirmed Influenza Outbreaks in Seniors' Residences) including patient weight and recent serum creatinine.  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-20655.pdf>
  - Sending it to the appropriate pharmacy as per the resident's request.
- ❖ Please note that the cost of an antiviral prophylaxis prescription (medication plus dispensing fee) during an influenza outbreak is covered by a special Alberta Blue Cross program, with no charge to the patient.

The prescription would remain on file at the pharmacy for the duration of the outbreak season, ready to be filled in the event that an influenza outbreak is declared at the patient's facility. This In-Advance prescription should help alleviate the urgency when influenza outbreaks are declared in North Zone.

A copy of the antiviral advance prescription template is posted on the North Zone MOH webpage: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/Page14478.aspx>

Thank you for your assistance in outbreak management!

Sincerely,

***Original signed***

Dr. Albert de Villiers, Lead MOH North Zone, Areas 1,2,3,9  
Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, MOH North Zone Areas 4,5,6  
Dr. Gerhard Benadé, MOH North Zone Areas 7,8,10  
Dr. Mayank Singal, MOH North Zone Areas 7,8,10