

Influenza Immunization Program Update 2018-2019

The official starting date of the Ministry's 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is October 22, 2018.

The 2018-2019 Saskatchewan Influenza Immunization Policy (SIIP) has been expanded to permit pharmacists to administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to clients five years and older, during home visits and in congregate living settings. The billing procedure for the 2018-2019 Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) Influenza Immunization Program 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 starting date of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program 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.

* **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, which 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 (FNJ) 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 in Saskatchewan include private seniors' apartment buildings, personal care homes, Approved Private Service Homes, assisted living facilities and group homes.**

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 (i.e., October 22, 2018)
 - **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 *must be set to adjudicate for vaccine reporting purposes

- Before administering the influenza vaccine, it is expected that pharmacists review the patient's Pharmaceutical Information Program profile and immunization record in the eHR Viewer to confirm whether the patient has previously received a publicly-funded influenza vaccine during the 2018-19 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 IIF (i.e., October 22, 2018)
 - **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 00951107 00951108	Influenza Immunization – On Site Influenza Immunization – Off Site Influenza Immunization – 5 to 8 YRS	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 195 day period per patient with a minimum interval of four weeks between claims. Pharmacies can submit claims between October 22, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Exception: Children requiring two doses that have received their first dose on or prior to March 31, 2019 are eligible to receive their second dose until April 30, 2019. Must be submitted as a Quantity of ONE (1) .

WHO TO CONTACT

For questions related to **BILLING PROCEDURE**, contact 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 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 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program?

- The Ministry 2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program is scheduled to begin on October 22, 2018, and ends on March 31, 2019.
- **Pharmacists or any other providers cannot administer publicly funded influenza vaccine before the official starting date of the program on October 22, 2018.**

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 SPP at <https://saskpharm.ca/site/profprac/adminofdrugs?nav=sidebar> .
The Ministry of Health immunization fact sheet (*2018-2019 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 (2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine)?

- The Ministry of Health *2018-2019 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine* fact sheet is available to order free of charge from the Ministry's publication centre at <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/deplist.cfm?d=13&c=1073>. 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 nine years of age?

- The 2018-2019 SIIP has been expanded to allow 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 Saskatchewan Health Authority 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 Administration of Vaccine*** forms to as the Ministry may need this information for analysis and follow up purposes to evaluate the expansion of the program.

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

- The 2018-2019 SIIP has been expanded to allow 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, which 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 (FNJ) 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 in Saskatchewan include private seniors' apartment buildings, personal care homes, Approved Private Service Homes, assisted living facilities and group homes.

- 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.
 - Pharmacies cannot submit a claim for an IIF to the DPEBB for non-publicly funded influenza vaccine.
- 6. What are the reporting requirements if an individual experiences an adverse event following immunization (AEFI)?**
- 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 2018-2019 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.gov.sk.ca/deplist.cfm?d=13&c=1073>.
 - 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 2018-2019 SIIP.
 - The *Cold Chain Break Report Form* is included as Appendix 3 of the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 SIIP.
 - The *Product Wastage Report* form is included as Appendix 5 of the 2018-2019 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.

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 5 and 8 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 9 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 2 doses in children 5 to 9 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.

14. Why are there now more billing code (pseudoDIN) options for the IIF?

- The 2018-2019 SIIP has been expanded to permit pharmacists to administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to clients five years and older, during home visits and in congregate living settings.
- Pharmacists are required to submit the IIF under the appropriate pseudoDIN to facilitate analysis of the program expansion to the new client group and delivery sites (see Table 1).