

## Localised community outbreaks of influenza in season period (as directed by Department of Health)

Following a report of acute respiratory illness from a localised community setting, such as a care home or residential school, Public Health England's Health Protection Team (PHE HPT) will either contact a GP practice directly or NEW Devon CCG/ South Devon and Torbay CCG and provide information regarding the outbreak.

If CCG contacted by PHE the Medicines Optimisation Team based in the location of outbreak will contact an appropriate GP practice, local to the affected setting, to request GP support at the institution for the purpose of clinical review of patients and supply of FP10 prescriptions for influenza treatment and prophylaxis if required. **Note: the request will be optional, and if the practice is unable to cover due to insufficient capacity an alternative practice will be contacted.**

The Medicines Optimisation Team will provide the GP with appropriate information.

### Clinician responsibilities

- Assess the need for treatment with antiviral medication of symptomatic patients and where clinically appropriate review patients in their setting.
- Contact PHE (PHE South West Centre HPT, Public Health England, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5NE Telephone 0300 303 8162 (option 1, then option 1)) to discuss requirements for identifying and managing outbreak including the need for patients to be swabbed.
- Complete FP10 prescriptions for treatment and prophylaxis of remaining residents/staff as required and supply to a local pharmacy for delivery to affected site or contact patients own GPs to issue prescriptions if preferred. If attending GP issues prescriptions for all residents then they must ensure patients own GPs are informed of action.

Note residents in at-risk groups during influenza outbreaks in care homes, regardless of their vaccination status should be provided with prophylaxis, however staff who have had the seasonal flu vaccination and are not either pregnant, or in an at-risk group for influenza, do not require prophylaxis or treatment.

In situations where an individual has a documented renal function within the last 6 months indicating no renal impairment, then they can be prescribed the standard dose of antivirals.

*Treatment (Adult, refer to BNF dose for child) OSELTAMIVIR CAPSULES 75mg BD 5 Days.*

*Prophylaxis (Adult, refer to BNF dose for child) OSELTAMIVIR CAPSULES 75mg Daily 10 Days.*

Emergency outbreak responses where there is no information about the presence or absence of renal impairment (or lack of available routine renal function results from the past 6 months), there is a high likelihood of abnormal renal function in care home residents (>65 years of age), so we would recommend a reduced daily dose of oseltamivir in all care home residents. This would be for a dose appropriate to CrCl of

31-60 mL/min.

*Treatment (Adult, refer to BNF dose for child) OSELTAMIVIR CAPSULES 30mg BD 5 Days.*

*Prophylaxis (Adult, refer to BNF dose for child) OSELTAMIVIR CAPSULES 30mg Daily 10 Days.*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664972/Influenza-like\\_illness\\_in\\_care\\_homes.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664972/Influenza-like_illness_in_care_homes.pdf) Appendix 5

The process for clinical assessment and dispensing of antivirals will be agreed depending on the timing and notification of the outbreak and the type of antiviral available. NB Antivirals may be considered for treatment and ideally should be provided within 48 hours (for adults) of onset of symptoms (36 hours if zanamivir is used).

Although there might be some benefit of antivirals provided up to five days after symptom onset, the use of antivirals in such context is unlicensed and should be based on an individual clinical decision. Please refer to the PHE guidelines on the management of outbreaks of influenza-like illness (ILI) in care homes, updated November 2017.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664972/Influenza-like\\_illness\\_in\\_care\\_homes.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664972/Influenza-like_illness_in_care_homes.pdf)

- For governance purposes, a summary (by risk group and patient/carer status) of the number of individuals who have been assessed and the number supplied with antiviral treatment or prophylaxis should be provided to the PHE Centre HPT.

### Payment

GP Practices can claim a sessional (defined as 4 hours) rate (pro-rata) of £375 for work done. Any additional or unavoidable costs incurred will need to be agreed with the On Call Director. Payment excludes treatment of practices' own patients as these are treated under GMC. It includes non-registered patients for treatment and/or all patients and staff (even if registered with practice) requiring prophylactic anti-virals.