

OCTOBER BULLETIN

EXCEPTION CRITERIA FOR OSELTAMIVIR (TAMIFLU®)

Nova Scotia Health Promotion & Protection and the District Health Authority Public Health Services have guidelines in place to manage and treat outbreaks of influenza in long term care (LTC) facilities. In accordance with these guidelines, the Pharmacare Programs provide coverage of **oseltamivir (Tamiflu®)** for beneficiaries who are residents of LTC facilities and who have been identified by the Medical Office of Health (MOH) as meeting the criteria for coverage.

The criteria for coverage of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs follow:

- for the **treatment** of LTC care residents with clinically suspected or lab confirmed influenza A or B. A clinically suspected case is one in which the patient meets the criteria of influenza-like illness and there is confirmation of influenza A or B circulating within the facility or surrounding community.
- for the **prophylaxis** of LTC residents where the facility has an influenza A or B outbreak.

Process for Initiating Treatment and Coverage of Oseltamivir:

- When a LTC facility has a suspected outbreak of influenza, the attending physician or the LTC facility's Medical Director contacts the MOH or the local Public Health Office. (For regional contact information, go to www.gov.ns.ca/health/ocmoh/contact.htm)
- If the MOH determines there is a need for antiviral medication, Public Health staff will communicate this recommendation to the LTC facility and will also notify the Pharmacare Program by way of fax (902-468-9402).
- Pharmacare Program staff will, in turn, contact the dispensing pharmacy to authorize payment of claims for oseltamivir. A specific criteria code will be provided to the pharmacy at the time of the outbreak. This will avoid the need for individual exception requests.

- After hours, the local Public Health Office may contact the pharmacy to confirm that the criteria for Pharmacare coverage have been met. This will enable the pharmacy to begin the process of securing and dispensing oseltamivir.

Treatment Notes:

- Antiviral medication should only be considered for treatment of a symptomatic resident when the influenza symptoms have been present for less than 48 hours. Antiviral medication is unlikely to benefit residents who have been ill for more than 48 hours.
- In the past, amantadine has been an option for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza A, unless resistance is noted or its use is contraindicated. However, the **2007-2008 National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement does not recommend using amantadine for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza because in the most recent influenza season, 82% of influenza A isolates were resistant to amantadine.**
- The 2007-2008 NACI Statement includes recommendations for use of oseltamivir. Despite the fact that amantadine is not recommended, information for amantadine is also included in the event that testing of the 2007-2008 strain indicates susceptibility to it. (The full 2007-2008 NACI Statement, including dosing guidelines, can be accessed at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/06vol32/acs-07/index.html)

INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

- ▶ **New Benefit - Losec 20mg Capsule**
- ▶ **New Wound Care Products**

NEW BENEFIT - LOSEC CAPSULE

Effective November 1, 2007, Losec 20mg Capsule (DIN 00846503) will be insured as an exception status benefit within the existing interchangeable category of the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs.

In order to reflect changes in the acquisition cost of the lowest priced brand within the omeprazole categories, the following Pharmacare Reimbursement Levels will be **effective November 1, 2007**.

OMEPRAZOLE 20mg Cap			
02245058	Apo-Omeprazole	APX	1.1000
00846503	Losec	AZE	1.1000

OMEPRAZOLE 20mg Cap/Tab			
02245058	Apo-Omeprazole	APX	1.1000
02190915	Losec	AZE	1.1000

CORRECTION

Please note that the product numbers indicated on the New Ostomy Products List of the August Pharmacists' Bulletin Vol. #07-08, were missing the first digit of the product number. All product numbers are to begin with the number 1 (i.e., Assura Easiclose Drainable Pouch #3870 should read #13870).

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pharmacare Programs if you have any questions or concerns.

NEW WOUND CARE PRODUCTS

Effective immediately, the following wound care products are "New Listings to the Nova Scotia Formulary. The benefit status of each product within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated.

PIN	PRODUCT	MFR	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS
93299936	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (10x10 #3410)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299248	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (10x20 #3412)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299935	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (15x15 #3413)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299934	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (20x20 #3416)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299930	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (12.5x12.5 #3420)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299929	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (18x18 #3423)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299931	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (10x10 #3430)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299247	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (7.5x7.5 #3462)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299933	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (5cm round #3465)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299932	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Dressing (8cm round #3467)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299243	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Small Sacral Dressing (17x17 #3483)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299928	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Sacral Dressing (23x23 #3485)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299242	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Contour Foam Dressing (17x17 #3486)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299927	Biatain 3D Polymer Adhesive Foam Heel Dressing (19x20 #3488)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299246	Biatain New Generation Foam Dressing w Soft Hold (10x10 #3470)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299245	Biatain New Generation Foam Dressing w Soft Hold (10x20 #3472)	COL	DR NP	SF
93299244	Biatain New Generation Foam Dressing w Soft Hold (15x15 #3475)	COL	DR NP	SF

NEW PRESCRIBERS

The following have been added to the list of prescribers under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program.

Nurse Practitioner

Sandra Duke	(Prescriber #727896)
Karen Legg	(Prescriber #725254)
Michelle MacKay	(Prescriber #727655)
Kristal MacLean	(Prescriber #727294)
Shannon Nearing	(Prescriber #721891)

Prescribing Optometrist

Dr. Victoria French	(Prescriber #50209)
Dr. Leah Gallie	(Prescriber #50208)
Dr. Shaun MacInnis	(Prescriber #50210)

Please retain for your reference. See the Nova Scotia Formulary for Pharmacare benefits which can be insured if prescribed by these groups of prescribers.