OUT OF SEASON INFLUENZA OUTBREAK PRESCRIBING PROTOCOL

(FluOOS)

This protocol is for use in the incidence of a localised outbreak diagnosed and notified to Public Health England (PHE), outside the usual flu season.

Note this protocol is **not** for use when the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has announced through a central altering system (CAS) alert that circulating levels of influenza in the community have reached the levels to make prescribing appropriate. This usually occurs in winter but not exclusively, when prescribing is determined by NICE TA158 and TA168

Prescribing of antiviral medicines for influenza out of season

If influenza is diagnosed outside of the normal flu season and a localised outbreak is of illness is taking place in patients falling in an 'at risk' group, a prescriber, in association with Public Health England may wish to prescribe antiviral medication as set out in NICE guidance, i.e.:

NICE TA158 (prophylaxis) says:

During localised outbreaks of influenza-like illness (outside the periods when national surveillance indicates that influenza virus is circulating generally in the community), oseltamivir and zanamivir may be used for post-exposure prophylaxis in at-risk people living in long-term residential or nursing homes, whether or not they are vaccinated. However, this should be done only if there is a high level of certainty that the causative agent in a localised outbreak is influenza, usually based on virological evidence of infection with influenza in the index case or cases.

NICE TA168 (treatment) says:

During localised outbreaks of influenza-like illness (outside the periods when national surveillance indicates that influenza virus is circulating in the community), oseltamivir and zanamivir may be offered for the treatment of influenza in 'at-risk' people who live in long-term residential or nursing homes. However, these treatments should be offered only if there is a high level of certainty that the causative agent in a localised outbreak is influenza (usually based on virological evidence of influenza infection in the initial case).

Prescribing

Out of the notified season it is not possible to prescribe on an FP10 NHS prescription, in line with drug tariff criteria (FP10s may only be used when a Chief Medical Officer (CMO) notification has been issued to say that influenza is circulating in the community). Therefore, prescribing is undertaken on a Patient Specific Direction (PSD)* specifically designed for the purpose.

A SystmOne 'pop-up' is in place to make this easier for prescribers to automatically populate the PSD.

In season, normal FP10 prescribing, in line with TA158 and TA168 should occur. Prescriptions should be taken to the patient's or care homes normal pharmacy.

Out of season the prescriber will be taken to a template for an NHS PSD for supply. This should be completed in full to include all the relevant details (see template PSD in appendix 1).

The PSD should be printed and given to the patient/carer to take to the pharmacy. During the working week the pharmacy will be the patient/institution choice. In the out of hours period, the pharmacy should be chosen based on availability of the antiviral medication and whether they are open for collections and deliveries.

Prescribers need to be clear if they are prescribing for treatment in a patient who has symptoms **or** chemoprophylaxis for patients that are non-symptomatic but have been exposed to the virus. In most cases where this protocol is deployed to control an outbreak, the majority of prescribing will be for post exposure chemoprophylaxis. Prescribers will need to discuss this with the health protection team leading the response. The dose for each indication is different. Use a current BNF or BNF online to check the dose and adjust as directed by Public Health England for renal function.

Patients and staff should be given instructions to ensure they start treatment/prophylaxis within the specified time frame after onset of symptoms or exposure to influenza:

- For treatment or prophylaxis with oseltamivir, adults and children, within 48 hours
- For treatment with zanamivir and patient >5 but <13 years of age, within 36 hours
- For treatment with zanamivir and patient >13 years of age, within 48 hours
- For prophylaxis with zanamivir, adults and children >5 years of age, within 36 hours

All pharmacies will have regular wholesaler deliveries 6 days per week. Orders sent in by 6pm are likely to be delivered next day.

If the prescription is issued on a Saturday, of a bank holiday weekend, then there may be a risk that the treatment will not be started within 48 hours. On those rare occasions, it is advisable to direct patients to a late opening/Sunday opening pharmacy or one which is planned to be open on the bank holiday. The pharmacy can then make a special order for the medication and have it courier delivered to allow prompt start of treatment.

AAH: Southampton 07767690844, Bristol 07957998166

Alliance: Call the Key Holder (01392 426947). Quote account name, a contact name and a contact telephone number. Provide details of the product required. The Service Centre Duty Manager will contact you to confirm product availability and estimated time and place of delivery plus charge.

Other information

PSD* – Patient specific direction – this is the way in which most medicines are directed to be supplied or administered, prescription charts in hospitals are PSDs, as is a private prescription (where the individual is to pay). Prescribers should not be concerned about having to use this alternative way of generating a prescription.

Please do not use a private prescription for this purpose or as these may create confusion, as there are occasionally people who choose to be privately treated during times of an outbreak, even if they are not entitled to treatment on the NHS.

Pharmacies – dispensing and claiming payment

All pharmacies registered with the GPHC and holding an NHS England contract should be able to issue antivirals through this protocol, as long as they are able to do so in time for the patients to get the dose within the required time. By not restricting to specific pharmacies this should allow treatment/prophylaxis to be obtained locally.

In the out of hours period

When the pharmacy is presented with the NHS PSD for influenza medicines, the pharmacy should supply the course of treatment requested and then retain the PSD for their records. As for any other dispensing there should also be a record made in the patient's medical record (PMR) in the pharmacy.

The patient(s) will need to be treated with the prescribed flu treatment within the time frames set out above. On normal working days, if the medication is in stock, or when there are regular wholesaler deliveries available, it is expected that the antiviral will be supplied with "reasonable promptness" and supplied same day or next day as per any other medication.

Payment & Claims

As soon as possible after following this protocol, the pharmacy should notify the CCG medicines team via medicine.question@dorsetccg.nhs.uk. Please note that **NO PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE EMAIL**. The pharmacy will then be asked to submit a claim for payment.

Payment is claimed using the invoice proforma (Appendix 3). No patient level details should be recorded on the Invoice. This is forwarded directly to Shared Business Services (SBS).

Receipt of the invoice by the medicines team will trigger a cross check of the FluOOS notification email against the Invoice and then allow approval of payment to the pharmacy for supply of the antiviral drug.

For situations where the pharmacy dispenses from stock or orders a supply of drug through normal wholesaler routes, the pharmacy can claim the list price of the drug supplied plus a dispensing / management fee of £10. For exceptional situations when the wholesaler emergency supply is necessary, the wholesaler urgent delivery fee can also be claimed.

Exceptional circumstances:

If the diagnosis and presentation of the prescription means that the normal wholesaler delivery will not allow initiation of first dose within 48 hours then the pharmacy should use the mainline wholesaler urgent supply facility to order the required medicines. It is anticipated that this will only be when prescribed on a bank holiday. The mainline wholesalers, Phoenix, Alliance and AAH will provide urgent courier facilities. These exceptional fees will be reimbursed by the CCG.

Additional Documents

Appendix	Name	Links (public website)
Appendix1	FluOOS PSD template	
Appendix 2	FluOOS NHS number list	
Appendix 3	FLuOOS invoice	

Appendix 1

NHS
Dorset
Clinical Commissioning Group

Patient Specific Direction (PSD) for supply of amantadine, oseltamivir or zanamavir during out-of-season influenza outbreaks

Patient details

Name of patient	
Patient NHS number	
Date of birth	
Address of patient	

Treatment details

I authorise for the above named patient to receive the following medicine for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza:

Name and form of medicine	
Strength of medicine	
Dose	
Frequency	
Duration of treatment	

Prescriber details

Prescriber signature	
Prescriber name (PRINT)	
Date of signing	
Qualification (GP/Non-Medical prescriber)	
Practice/Organisation	

Dispensing

Date of dispensing	
Pharmacist signature	
Pharmacist name (PRINT)	
Pharmacy address/stamp	

Appendix 2

Community Pharmacy claim form for supply of amantadine, oseltamivir or zanamavir during out-of-season influenza outbreaks

Date of dispensing	Patient NHS number (if available)	GP practice of patient	Item and quantity supplied	Cost of drug supplied	Courier cost (for urgent deliveries)	Dispensing fee	Total cost

Pharmacist name (PRINT)		Pharmacist signature	
Pharmacy address/stamp			

Appendix 3

INVOICE

TO:
Dorset CCG
11J Payables Code K405
Phoenix House
Topcliffe Lane
Wakefield
WF3 1WE

INVOICE NUMBER: **xxxxxxxxxxxxxx**
INVOICE DATE: **xx/xx/xxxx**

SHIP TO:
Contact name
Pharmacy name
Street Address
City
County
Postcode

COMMENTS OR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

[Insert details here if applicable]

ACCOUNT NUMBER	P.O. NUMBER/ Contact Reference	REQUISITIONER	DELIVERY NOTE	TERMS
If applicable	**XXKGOUGH**	If applicable	If applicable	30 days

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	FluOOs supply by Patient Specific Direction following Outbreak in …….. Drug tariff price of Drugs +£10 per item		
Mainline wholesaler emergency courier delivery charge			
Payable to: [XXXXXXXXXXXX] Bank Account: [XXXXXXXXX] Remittance Address: [Email or postal address] If you have questions concerning this invoice contact [Name, Email, Telephone] VAT Registration Number: (if applicable)		SUB-TOTAL VAT SHIPPLING/HANDLING TOTAL DUE	