

# PHARMACY QI

Practical Tips for Quality Improvement

November 2018

## Improving Influenza Outbreak Preparedness



- 1 PRE-OUTBREAK:**
  - Ensure that oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) orders and consent to treat are on file for all residents upon admission and maintained throughout the year. Your Clinical Consultant Pharmacist will help recommend the dose.
- 2 WHEN AN OUTBREAK IS SUSPECTED:**
  - Notify your Pharmacy Manager early by telephone (i.e., when Public Health is contacted and swabs are taken).
- 3 WHEN AN OUTBREAK IS CONFIRMED:**
  - Notify your Pharmacy Manager that an outbreak has been declared and inform pharmacy of residents who have not consented to take oseltamivir and advise of residents who are symptomatic and for how long.
  - Orders from prescriber are required for treatment doses (i.e., symptomatic residents).
  - Oseltamivir 10-day supply shall then be sent to the facility according to information provided.
  - Communicate to pharmacy if another supply of oseltamivir is needed before the 10-day supply is used up.
- 4 WHEN AN OUTBREAK IS DECLARED OVER:**
  - Notify your pharmacy as soon as possible and stop oseltamivir order on the MAR.
- 5 PROTECTION OF STAFF:**
  - Influenza vaccination of healthcare staff saves lives and is highly recommended.
  - Unimmunized staff may resume work during an outbreak as soon as they are taking antiviral prophylaxis. It is recommended that staff obtain an order for prophylaxis, prior to the start of the influenza season.

### References:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care/Population and Public Health Division. Toronto, Canada, 2018. Recommendations for the Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes. [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/docs/reference/RESP\\_Infectn\\_ctrl\\_guide\\_LTC\\_2018\\_en.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/RESP_Infectn_ctrl_guide_LTC_2018_en.pdf). Accessed August 22, 2018.  
Policy 10-4 (Antiviral Use in Influenza) - Medical Pharmacies Policy and Procedure Manual.