



| BBS Notice No. 10032 |

BBS No. 10032 posted April 1, 2010
Return of Provincial H1N1 Antivirals

Notice from Public Health

April 1, 2010

Return of Provincial H1N1 Antivirals

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is initiating a process to retrieve antiviral medications that were distributed to Ontario pharmacies during the provincial response to the H1N1 pandemic. Additionally, the ministry will be terminating the temporary program initiated during the H1N1 pandemic requiring Health Network System (HNS) tracking and involving the provincial reimbursement of dispensing fees associated with the dispensing of government-supplied antivirals. Accordingly, pharmacists and pharmacies are being instructed to revert to the routine practice of dispensing antiviral medications from their commercial supply.

The process for returning unused antivirals requires the pharmacist or a pharmacy administrator to contact the logistics provider to arrange pick-up. This is to be done at no cost to the pharmacy. Detailed instructions are as follows:

- Contact McKesson Canada at 1-877-671-1335 to arrange a date for a pick-up of the drugs at no cost to the pharmacy.
- Ensure an individual is available during the arranged time and is aware that the product is being returned.
- Ensure the box or container with the antiviral medications is sealed.
- McKesson Canada will provide you with a 'Certification of Product Stability' Form. Registered Pharmacists are requested to review and sign this form to attest that the appropriate storage and handling conditions were met while the antiviral medications were under the pharmacy's custody and control. The ministry requires this documentation in order to potentially use the product in the future. Note: Pharmacists may also receive this certificate through the Ontario Pharmacists' Association.

The return of provincial antiviral medications must be completed by April 23, 2010. Based on data from the HNS system, ministry officials will be in contact with pharmacies who are recorded as having remaining antivirals but who have yet to contact McKesson Canada by this date.

Additionally, the provincial reimbursement of dispensing fees for government supplied antivirals and associated tracking requirement through the HNS will be terminated as of April 7, 2010. Pharmacists should revert to routine antiviral dispensing practices, including standard billing processes and payment collection from patients, if applicable, effective on this date.



| BBS Notice No. 10032 |

Please note that as of April 7, 2010, the ministry H1N1 guidance document entitled *Guidance for Pharmacists and Pharmacies on Ontario's Antiviral Distribution Strategy for Managing Influenza-Like Illness during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009* will no longer be in effect.

As we bring this process to a close, the ministry would like to thank all participating pharmacies who collaborated with the ministry and the Ontario Pharmacists' Association on this important response effort. The work undertaken by your organizations to ensure that patients received expedited access to antiviral medications was a key element of the health system's work to minimize serious illness and overall deaths during the pandemic.

If there are any questions regarding this return process, please contact the ministry's Healthcare Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272.