

June 25, 2009

**Criteria for Part III EDS Coverage for the Pharmacare and Employment and Income Assistance Drug Plans:**

Effective immediately Tamiflu® (oseltamivir) is a Part 3 benefit through the Pharmacare Provincial Drug Program.

Coverage under Part 3 EDS requires a patient to meet the criteria listed below and the physician must contact the EDS office to obtain prior approval. Requests can be submitted by telephone, by mail or by fax. Business Hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30 pm and a toll-free line with an electronic message system is available exclusively for requests on a 24-hour basis. The telephone number to access this line is (204) 788-6388 or 1-800-557-4303. The fax number is (204) 942-2030 or 1-877-208-3588.

For Tamiflu® (oseltamivir) to be effective it should be administered as early as possible and preferentially within 48 hours of onset of illness.

**Tamiflu® (oseltamivir) is covered under Part 3 EDS status when:**

- Patient shows Influenza Like Illness and one or more of the following risk factors**
  - Chronic Diseases (lung including asthma, heart, kidney, central nervous system including neuromuscular diseases, endocrine system including diabetes mellitus);
  - Immune disorders or immunosuppression (such as cancer patients on treatment, autoimmune diseases or rheumatologic diseases on TNF inhibitors or corticosteroids, transplant patients, HIV infection);
  - Pregnancy
  - “Lifestyle” conditions (i.e. smoking, substance abuse, alcoholism, homelessness);
  - Obesity and/or malnutrition;
  - Persons of aboriginal ancestry
  - Any additional risk factors determined through evolving evidence of risk factors and antiviral susceptibilities {see the *Manitoba Interim Guidance for Clinicians in Ambulatory Care Settings - Novel Influenza A (H1N1)*}.
  
- Severe Respiratory Illness (SRI)**

Clinicians are directed to review the *Manitoba Interim Guidance for Clinicians in Ambulatory Care Settings - Novel Influenza A (H1N1)*

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/docs/interim\\_guidance\\_clinicians\\_ambulatory.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/docs/interim_guidance_clinicians_ambulatory.pdf)