

## Service Specifications for Community Pharmacy Supply of Oseltamivir via a Patient Group Direction during an Avian Influenza Outbreak.

<b>Service Specification No.</b>	CP AI1
<b>Service</b>	Community Pharmacist supply of oseltamivir via a PGD for pre and post exposure prophylaxis of avian influenza as a public health measure in adults and children aged one year or older
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<b>Provider Lead</b>	
<b>Period</b>	2023.24
<b>Date of Review</b>	March 2024 or as required

### 1. Population Needs

#### 1.1 National/local context

Avian Influenza (AI), or Bird Flu, is an infectious type of viral influenza that spreads among birds, including chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. It can be passed between commercial, wild and pet birds. Infection spreads through direct contact with infected birds (dead or alive), infected bird's droppings, or secretions from their eyes or respiratory tract.

Although these viruses don't infect people easily and aren't usually transmitted from human to human, several people have been infected around the world, leading to several deaths.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England requires local arrangements be in place to allow people who may have been in contact with infected birds, or people who may be called upon to handle or remove infected birds, to receive prophylactic oseltamivir to reduce the risk of infection. Leeds has a multi-agency SOP in place to respond to an AI outbreak which includes a small number of community pharmacies, mainly in areas close to poultry farms, supplying oseltamivir via a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

### 2. Outcomes

#### 2.1 NHS Outcomes Framework Domains & Indicators

Domain 1	Preventing people from dying prematurely	X
Domain 4	Ensuring people have a positive experience of care	X
Domain 5	Treating and caring for people in safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm	X

#### 2.2 Local defined outcomes

- Leeds has a robust, timely and easily accessible system in place to deliver AI antiviral prophylaxis according to national guidelines.

### 3. Scope

The service covers any person in the group below, aged 1 year or over.

- People identified by the local UKHSA Team, who have been in contact with infected birds, or who may need to be in contact with infected birds, and who have been referred to the pharmacy for supply of oseltamivir under a Patient Group Direction.

### 4. Aims and objectives of service

The pharmacies delivering this service will be an integral part of the Leeds Human Health Response to a confirmed AI. The pharmacists delivering the service will use the PGDs to:

- Clinically assess people referred for suitability for oseltamivir treatment.
- Supply oseltamivir where clinically appropriate.
- Ensure people supplied oseltamivir understand how to take it correctly.
- Inform UKHSA of any identified individuals who are not suitable to receive prophylaxis under the PGD.

### 5. Service description / care pathway

#### 5.1 Service readiness

- The clinical governance lead for the participating pharmacy will be responsible for all the clinical governance aspects of the service.
- The pharmacy will receive an annual payment to maintain readiness to deliver the PGDs. **This will include having a copy of the PGDs which have been read and signed in section 7 by the pharmacist and authorised by the authorising manager. These must be always available in the pharmacy.**
- The pharmacy will have suitably competent pharmacist(s) who can work under the PGDs available during normal opening hours. It is accepted that the pharmacist who can provide this service may not always be available (e.g., annual leave, sickness). If an outbreak is confirmed the pharmacy will be expected to have a suitable pharmacist available within 1 working day. If no pharmacist will be available within 1 working day the pharmacy must inform UKSA and or the Leeds Medicines Optimisation Team at the earliest possible opportunity.
- In the event of an on-going incident pharmacies participating in the service could be asked to extend their opening hours to support the delivery of the PGDs by UKHSA or West Yorkshire ICB in Leeds (WYICB Leeds). This would be in very exceptional circumstances only; participation would be voluntary and would need prior approval by NHSE. Additional payment would be made for this by the WYICB Leeds and inability to extend hours would not be considered a breach of agreement.
- The suitably competent pharmacist must comply with the 'Characteristics of Staff' listed in section 3 of the PGDs.

#### 5.2 Triggering of Protocol

- Refer to the Leeds AI SOP for full details of the process for patient referral to a pharmacy.

- UKHSA or Leeds Medicines Optimisation Team will telephone the participating pharmacy within normal opening hours to let them know the AI protocol has been triggered. They will inform the pharmacy of the number and / or names of people likely to attend for oseltamivir prophylaxis; the strain of avian flu involved and which PGD is to be implemented, and whether it is for pre or post exposure treatment.
- Section 7 of the PGD must be signed by the pharmacist who is going to deliver the service (and their manager if they have one) if not already signed.
- A suitably competent pharmacist must continue to be available during normal working hours until the outbreak is over.

### 5.3 Receipt and Storage of Stock

- UKHSA will organise a delivery to the pharmacy of a suitable amount of stock, according to their estimation of demand, from the UKHSA stockpile at Leeds Teaching Hospitals.
- The pharmacy will check stock on receipt and sign for delivery. Receipt of stock should be recorded on form Appendix 1
- Stock will be stored securely and separately from the pharmacies own dispensing stock.
- If insufficient stock is supplied the pharmacy should contact UKHSA on 0113 3860300.

### 5.4 Delivery of the PGD

- The pharmacist delivering the PGD is professionally responsible for their actions in carrying out this service.
- The PGD consultation may be conducted via the phone if the patient is unable to attend the pharmacy. If delivery of medication is required, this should be discussed with the outbreak team. Transport may be organised by the WYICB Leeds or the cost may be charged to WYICB Leeds.
- This SLA does not cover the treatment of symptomatic contacts and UKSHA will have screened people for symptoms before referring to the pharmacy, however it is good practice for pharmacists to also ask the infection screening questions included in Appendix A of the Leeds AI SOP and refer to UKSHA if symptoms identified.
- The pharmacist may provide the oseltamivir factsheet (included in Appendix B of the Leeds AI SOP) to the patient
- The pharmacist should inform UKHSA if any patients are excluded from supply via the PGD.

### 5.5 Record Keeping

- The pharmacy should keep all records as indicated in the PGD
- In addition, the records sheet in Appendix 1 should be completed and returned to the WYICB Leeds Medicines Optimisation Team at the end of the incident (or monthly).
- UKHSA or the WYICB Leeds may contact the pharmacy for confirmation that contacts have collected their medication.

### 5.6 FAQs

- **Q. Why is a PGD required? A.** NHS prescriptions are not permitted as GPs are only able to prescribe oseltamivir on the NHS under SLS criteria, which do not include AI. In the event birds need to be culled, workers may be brought in from around the country at short notice, and the most effective place to obtain pre exposure treatment is close to the site of the outbreak.
- **Q. Can I supply oseltamivir via the PGD to anyone who attends the pharmacy who thinks they may be at risk? A.** No. The PGD is only to be used to supply those people who have been risk assessed by UKHSA and who are on the list supplied to the pharmacy. Anyone attending who is not on the list, but who thinks they require prophylaxis, should be referred to UKHSA for risk assessment.

- **Q. Two PGDs are supplied. How do I know which strain is involved? A.** UKHSA will inform the pharmacy of strain and hence which PGD is to be used.
- **Q. What should I do if a referred person is excluded from supply on the PGD? UKHSA (0113 3860300) should be notified of all people excluded. If for post exposure the affected person should also be advised to contact their GP if they have one.**
- **Q. The PGDs recommend dose reduction in renal failure. How will I know the patient's creatinine clearance? A.** We would suggest asking all patients if they have ever had a diagnosis of chronic kidney disease or impaired renal function. If the answer is 'yes' or there is any uncertainty about this, and the patient's renal function is not accessible, the individual should be excluded from supply by PGD.
- **Is PPE required? A.** The precautionary use of a standard mask is recommended. Patients should not be symptomatic, and the risk of infection is very low. UKHSA will risk assess and inform the pharmacy of any additional PPE requirements. If any is required UKHSA will be responsible for supply.

## 6. Payment Schedule

**Claims for both the retainer fee and service delivery are by submission of an invoice - see schedule 2 for details.**

- Pharmacies should confirm their willingness to participate in the scheme by returning the declaration in Schedule 1 on an annual basis
- Pharmacies will be paid an annual retainer fee to agree to maintain readiness to provide the service, and a fee per person assessed using the PGDs
- In the event of a pharmacy being called upon to deliver the service, details of stock received, and assessments completed, should be shared with the Medicines Optimisation Team: see Appendix 1.
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## 7. Pharmacy Requirements

The WYICB Leeds will give priority to pharmacies that can meet the following minimum requirements:

- Extended opening hours to include weekends

Useful Contacts:

**UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA):** health protection duty desk – 0113 386 0300

**UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA):** out of hours – 0114 304 9843

**Leeds Medicines Optimisation Team**

email: [wycb-leeds.prescribingteam@nhs.net](mailto:wycb-leeds.prescribingteam@nhs.net) or call 0113 221 7400

**Appendix 1**

**Oseltamivir PGD Stock Reconciliation Sheet**

**Complete + return as soon as possible after incident (or monthly if ongoing) to: Medicines Optimisation Team, NHS WY ICB (Leeds), Units B5 – B9 Wira Ho, West Park Ring Road, Leeds, LS16 6EB or Email to: [wycb-leeds.prescribingteam@nhs.net](mailto:wycb-leeds.prescribingteam@nhs.net)**

Pharmacy Name:		Address:	
Tel No:		Email:	
Date of AI incident	From ..... To .....		

Stock received from UKHSA	Strength	Quantity received	Date received	Received by (sign)
Oseltamivir Capsule	30mg			
Oseltamivir Capsule	45mg			
Oseltamivir Capsule	75mg			
Oseltamivir Oral Solution	15mg/ml			

**People assessed using PGD:**

Patient Initial	Date of assessment	Was oseltamivir supplied?	Quantity + dose supplied 75mg	Quantity + dose supplied 45mg	Quantity + dose supplied 30mg	Quantity + dose supplied Solution 15mg/ml	Name of Pharmacist
Eg: JB	10.10.18	Yes	1 x 10 1od	nil	nil	nil	A Chemist