



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 5.8

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Guidelines for Treatment and Prevention of Influenza with Neuraminidase Inhibitors*

APPROVAL DATE: April 2004

REVISION DATE: March 2016; March 2017

REVIEW DATE: November 2018

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PURPOSE:

Neuraminidase inhibitors are a class of antiviral agents that are active against both influenza A and B. They are approved by Health Canada for prophylaxis treatment of influenza in healthy adults: example: oseltamivir (Tamiflu™). Dosing schedules and other details about these drugs are provided annually by the Health Unit.

PROCEDURE:

Resident/substitute decision maker informed consent is required prior to the administration of the medication.

Resident data, i.e. serum creatinine level and weight are required annually prior to flu season for pharmacy to calculate medication prophylaxis and/or treatment dosages.

Once influenza outbreak has been declared/lab confirmed, public health unit and the Medical Director will provide directions/recommendations regarding medication type, dosage, duration, frequency, etc. for treatment and prophylaxis therapy.

If medication is started within 48 hours after the first symptoms, there is a modest reduction in symptom duration and severity and possibly some reduction in risk of complications

** Under normal circumstances outbreaks are declared over 8 days after the onset of the last case – direction will be provided by public health unit.

*** Reference materials are provided annually by Public Health.