

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996

Drug Therapy Protocol – Pandemic Influenza Program Pharmacist, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer, Registered Nurse

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Drug Therapy Protocol - Pandemic Influenza Program

Pharmacist, Queensland Ambulance Service Officer, Registered Nurse

This drug therapy protocol, made under sections 171(3), 174(4) and 175(4A) of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* states the circumstances and conditions under which a pharmacist, Queensland Ambulance Service officer (ambulance officer) or registered nurse is authorised to administer or supply a restricted drug listed in Appendix 1 to this document.

Conditions and circumstances of this drug therapy protocol

1. During a declared public health emergency in relation to an infectious medical condition:
 - a pharmacist may, as part of the person's pharmaceutical duties, administer or supply the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1;
 - an ambulance officer who is a paramedic 1, 2, 3, 3 (ECP) or 4 may, as part of the person's ambulance duties, obtain, possess, administer or supply the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1;
 - a registered nurse, as part of the person's nursing duties, may administer or supply the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1;

only to persons identified as being exposed or potentially exposed to an infectious medical condition under the conditions contained in this Protocol by the Chief Executive or delegate or officer appointed for such purpose under the *Public Health Act 2005*.
2. A pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse may only administer or supply those restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 for which the Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Management Protocol has been developed and approved by the Chief Health Officer of Queensland Health. The minimum requirements for a Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol are contained in Appendix 2.
3. The actions of the pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse must at all times be in accordance with this Drug Therapy Protocol¹ and the Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol¹ during a public health emergency.
4. The pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse must have access to current versions of the following literature:
 - 4.1 A copy of this Drug Therapy Protocol; and
 - 4.2 The Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Program Health Management Protocol relevant to this Drug Therapy Protocol; and
 - 4.3 A current MIMS Annual and Australian Medicines Handbook; and
 - 4.4 A copy of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.
5. The pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse must be aware that practising within the Drug Therapy Protocol does not relieve that person of their legal responsibility or accountability for that person's actions and may not provide immunity in case of negligence.
6. Prior to the administration or supply of a restricted drug, the pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse must be familiar with the contra-indication(s) and known side effects of the restricted drug, and advise the patient accordingly.
7. When Consumer Medicine Information is available for a particular restricted drug, the pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse should provide this information to each person when administering or supplying medication.

8. Where a restricted drug is supplied by a pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse, the primary medicine container must be labeled with warnings and other information required by Section 198 of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*.

Certification

Certified at Brisbane on this 2nd day of April 2012.

Dr Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer
Queensland Health

¹ Unless, in the opinion of the pharmacist, ambulance officer or registered nurse such actions would be of detriment to the client. In such instances, a medical practitioner must be consulted.

Appendix 1

DRUG THERAPY PROTOCOL: PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PROGRAM

SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES	APPROVED ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION	RESTRICTIONS/CONDITIONS
ANTIVIRALS		
Zanamivir	Inhalation	For use only in relation to an infectious medical condition to persons identified by the Chief Executive or delegate or officer appointed for such purpose under the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> , as being exposed or potentially exposed to an infectious medical condition during a declared public health emergency. A summary of antiviral drugs registered for use in Australia (March 2006) is included in Appendix 1 of the Queensland Health Management Protocol relevant to this Drug Therapy Protocol.
Oseltamivir phosphate	Oral	

Appendix 2

Health Management Protocol – Minimum Requirements

1. The employer must have a current Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol that supports and details the clinical use, administration or supply of restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 of this Drug Therapy Protocol.
2. The employer must use the Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol that supports and details the clinical use, administration or supply of the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 of this Drug Therapy Protocol.
3. The Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol must be developed by an inter-disciplinary team which must consist as a minimum of a medical practitioner, pharmacist, registered nurse and an ambulance officer and may include other identified professional personnel as considered appropriate by the employing organisation.
4. Following a period of two years or sooner if considered necessary, the Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol must be reviewed by the inter-disciplinary team.

Content of a Health Management Protocol

The Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol clearly identifies the following:

1. The procedures for clinical assessment, management and follow-up of patients, including the recommended drug therapy for the relevant clinical problem.
2. A clinical indication or time when medical referral/consultation must occur for that condition.
3. The name, form and strength of the restricted drug and the condition/situation for which it is intended.
4. The recommended dose of the restricted drug.
5. The route of administration of the restricted drug.
6. The frequency (including rate where applicable) and duration of administration of the restricted drug.
7. Details of potential side effects and major interactions.
8. The pre-antiviral assessment for contraindications and precautions regarding the restricted drug.
9. The requirement for documented consent of the person being administered the restricted drug.
10. The duration of the restricted drug supply before medical intervention/follow-up is required.
11. The type of equipment and management procedures required for management of an emergency associated with the use of the restricted drug.

Endorsement of the Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol by the Chief Health Officer

1. A new or reviewed Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol must be endorsed and dated by the Chief Health Officer.
2. The Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Health Management Protocol shall be effective for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of endorsement by the Chief Health Officer.