Primary Care Advisory

Date: October 5, 2021
Subject: Prescribing antivirals for retirement home and congregate living settings, COVID-19 and Other Vaccines

1. Prescribing Antivirals for Retirement and Congregate Living Settings
   - Antivirals are routinely used in Influenza outbreaks to control spread of infection
   - Having antiviral prescriptions in advance helps to avoid delays in starting therapy during influenza outbreaks for both staff and residents.
   - Prompt initiation of antivirals can decrease the length of an influenza outbreak, improve outcomes for residents and decrease burden on the health care system.

Action:
In advance of the start of influenza season, please consider the following for your patients in retirement home and congregate living settings:

- Prescriptions (with refill orders) for influenza antivirals for the pharmacy / retirement home / congregate living setting (group home) to have on file.
- If Retirement homes / Congregate Living Settings (group homes) in Waterloo Region send requests for antiviral prescriptions, please consider providing a standing order in preparation for flu season.

See recommended dosages per the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI) and treatment duration per Ministry of Health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antiviral treatment dosages for <strong>lab confirmed</strong> residents:</th>
<th>Antiviral treatment dosages for <strong>symptomatic</strong> (not lab confirmed) residents:</th>
<th>Antiviral prophylactic dosages for <strong>asymptomatic</strong> residents:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamiflu™ (drug of choice): 75 mg BID for 5 days</td>
<td>Tamiflu™ (drug of choice): 75 mg BID for 5 days, then 75 mg OD for 14 days</td>
<td>Tamiflu™ (drug of choice): 75 mg OD for 14 days or until end of outbreak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relenza™ (alternative, if Tamiflu resistance is suspected): 10 mg (2 puffs) BID for 5 days (not for persons with chronic pulmonary disease)</td>
<td>Relenza™ (alternative, if Tamiflu resistance is suspected): 10 mg (2 puffs) BID for 5 days, then 10 mg (2 puffs) daily for 14 days or until end of the outbreak (not for persons with chronic pulmonary disease)</td>
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2. COVID-19 and Other Vaccines

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that COVID-19 vaccines may be administered at the same time, or at any time before or after non-COVID-19 vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted, or unadjuvanted vaccines.
- Vaccination for COVID-19 and other vaccines together will improve access and delivery.
- Informed consent should include a discussion about the limited data, benefits and potential risks of concomitant immunization.
- While no safety concerns have been identified, there is a possibility of increased temporary side effects when given together.
- Allowing COVID-19 vaccines to be given at the same time as or within days of other routine vaccines will help facilitate the rollout of the 2021 influenza vaccine program in the fall and winter and will make it easier for individuals to receive other routine vaccines they have missed due to the pandemic.

Action:

- Where this would be judged helpful, offer influenza/routine vaccines and COVID-19 vaccine at the same visit, using different injection sites.

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