



## **Resolution: Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities by Emergency Protocol**

**Adopted: 2/7/2018**

*The Board hereby recognizes that a long-term care facility's administration of influenza antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis to residents and health care personnel according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's "Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities"<sup>1</sup> constitutes an emergency and may be administered via protocol pursuant to paragraph (L)(1) of rule 4729-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code.*

For questions regarding this resolution, please review the following frequently asked questions. Other questions not addressed here may be emailed to the Board by visiting: <http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact.aspx>.

### **Q1) Who can administer influenza antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis in accordance with a protocol?**

A1) [Rule 4729-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#) requires the administration to be by licensed health care professionals. This does not include medical assistants or other unlicensed personnel.

### **Q2) The rule states the protocol must be approved by the Board of Pharmacy. How do I obtain approval?**

A2) No prior approval is necessary. The resolution above serves as the approval. Please be advised that any deviation from the CDC Guidance or the requirements of the rule could result in disciplinary action against the long-term care facility's terminal distributor license.

### **Q3) Who must authorize the protocol?**

A3) The protocol must be authorized by a prescriber. This should be a prescriber employed by the long-term care facility, such as the facility's medical director.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>



**Q4) Can a protocol for influenza outbreak management be used by a hospital or other facility in accordance with this resolution?**

A4) No. The resolution is intended for long-term care facilities. Hospitals may adopt emergency protocols or other protocols in accordance with rule 4729-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code and the [Joint Regulatory Statement issued by the Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy Board](#).

**Q5) What must be included in the protocol?**

A5) A protocol from an authorizing prescriber must include the following:

- (1) Specifically define the intended audience;
- (2) List the drug name and strength of the product;
- (3) Give specific instructions on how to administer the drug, how much to administer, and how often the drug should be administered; and
- (4) Any other requirements as specified in the CDC's "[Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities](#)."

The authorizing prescriber may have a more detailed protocol or may word the protocol any way the prescriber wishes as long as it contains the required details noted above.

**Q6) The resolution permits the use of protocols for the administration of influenza antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis to residents and health care personnel. Who is included in the definition of health care personnel?**

A6) It is up to the authorizing prescriber to determine what long-term care facility staff members meet the definition of health care personnel.