

PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009

Queensland Health Advice to Medical Practitioners

PROTECT Phase – 24 July 2009

IF THE PATIENT MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

- Patient has a recent onset of an acute Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)**
Recent onset of fever (or a history of fever) with cough and/or sore throat*
- Presents in the first 48 hours of symptoms****
- Patient has one or more of the following risk factors:**
 - Pregnancy (particularly second or third trimester)
 - Obesity (BMI > 30)
 - Person is Indigenous
 - Chronic respiratory disease (including asthma or COPD)
 - Conditions predisposing to complications of severe influenza such as:
cardiac disease (excluding simple hypertension), diabetes mellitus, chronic metabolic diseases, chronic renal disease, chronic liver disease, haemoglobinopathies, immunosuppression (including cancers, HIV/AIDS infection, drugs) and chronic neurological conditions

OR

Patient has moderate/severe disease, particularly those who are deteriorating, or experiencing respiratory difficulties

* Use clinical judgement in determining the risk of Pandemic (H1N1) influenza infection. In particular, a fever may not always be present. Have a low threshold for treating Indigenous people with additional risk factors who are in remote areas with known community transmission.

** Beyond 48 hours antiviral medication may still be indicated on clinical grounds

THEN

MANAGEMENT

- Stay at home until symptoms completely resolved
- Antiviral treatment through practitioner access to the National Medical Stockpile
- To be filled your prescription **MUST** state that the patient has acute ILI, is a member of a vulnerable group **or** has moderate/severe disease **AND** state *"THIS SCRIPT IS TO BE FILLED FROM THE ANTIVIRAL PANDEMIC STOCKPILE"*
- Provide supportive treatment / seek hospitalisation as indicated.

TESTING IS NOT NECESSARY FOR MOST CASES

Laboratory testing is not necessary and should only be done on those who have an acute, febrile influenza-like illness and are either:

- hospitalised;
- pregnant;
- a health care worker; or
- from areas where community transmission is not yet established - this is currently only remote Northern and Western areas of Queensland - if in doubt, please check with your local Population Health Unit.

In the PROTECT phase stockpile antiviral medication SHOULD NOT be provided to those with mild disease, those outside the vulnerable risk groups or for prophylaxis.[^]

Notify your Population Health Unit of any cases in residential care facilities, special schools, prisons or other closed settings with vulnerable people.

[^] Patients presenting within 48 hours of the onset of an influenza-like illness who do not have risk factors can be considered for antiviral therapy using the standard (non-PBS) prescription for private items that would apply during a normal influenza season.