

Date: October, 2018

To: Physicians LTC
Nurse Managers LTC

From: Dr Pamela Kibsey, Medical Lead Microbiology and Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, IH

Re: Creatinine results on Residents in LTC

Residential care facilities should pre-plan for antiviral medication dosage for prophylaxis and treatment of residents (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) during an outbreak. The facility should be prepared to give oseltamivir appropriate dosing based on a recent serum Creatinine. The sooner antivirals are given, the more effective they can be in controlling the outbreak.

1. Prior to the influenza season, Island Health refreshes and posts the ILI outbreak algorithms that include guidelines for administering antiviral medication in a timely manner during an outbreak.(see Island Health Infection Control ILI toolkit)
2. Since the majority of circulating influenza strains are resistant to amantadine, we are no longer recommending this drug for prophylaxis in an outbreak nor to treat individual symptomatic patients with confirmed influenza. Therefore, a recent Creatinine result on all the residents in a facility is no longer necessary.
3. If a serum Creatinine is available within the previous year for residents with suspected or confirmed renal impairment, ordering a serum Creatinine in advance is NOT required before starting oseltamivir (Tamiflu™) prophylaxis or treatment.
4. If renal impairment is unstable, then Creatinine should be obtained within the previous month. If renal impairment is stable, a creatinine clearance within the last year can be used to calculate the Tamiflu™ dosage.
5. The first dose of Tamiflu™ can be given and the blood sample for Creatinine can be taken at the same time if not available on the chart and the sample can be resulted before the next dose.

Further questions can be directed to Dr Kibsey 250 519 1626, or the infection control practitioner for your facility or to your local Medical Health Officer.

References:

1. Dr. R. Stanwick, Physician Newsletter No. 298, September 19, 2018.