

Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector 2006

Relevant Clauses

Annex E: Planning Recommendations for the Use of Anti-Influenza (Antiviral) Drugs in Canada During a Pandemic

6.0 Outstanding Issues

Some of the important questions about effective treatment protocols can only be answered when the pandemic strain emerges. Rapid clinical trials will be critical to guide the most appropriate use of antiviral drugs. In Canada, an Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Network has been established to bring together government and University researchers ahead of a mass emergency so that research studies can be launched rapidly during a pandemic. As its work progresses, the advance development of research protocols and mechanisms for rapid ethical approval will help address these concerns.

Annex N: Pandemic Influenza Surveillance Guidelines

Introduction

Assumptions

The Respiratory Illness Outbreak Response Protocol (RIORP)₂ will be approved and implemented in order to facilitate data sharing and communication within Canada during the pandemic. This document outlines local, PT and federal reporting processes.

Appendix 1 Generic Protocol of People Exposed to Influenza

Ethics

Seroprevalence studies must respect the highest ethical standards for protection of the research subject and be approved by a recognized Research Ethics Board. Signed informed consent should be obtained from each subject. In respect of the individual's privacy, a study code number must be assigned to all research participants. This will allow for confidentiality of information to be maintained to the extent legally possible. A record linking the participant's name and study code number should be kept secure and confidential by the investigator. Personal information should never be divulged to a third party and only aggregate results presented at conferences and in publications. Patients should be informed that testing will only be done for the presence of antibody to influenza and other respiratory viruses, but that under no circumstance will their sample be screened for unrelated viruses such as HIV.

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada (2006). Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/>

