



January 5, 2017

Suboxone available on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary

- Suboxone is an effective treatment used to relieve opioid withdrawal symptoms
- It has a lower risk of overdose than methadone and reduces drug cravings
- As of October, 2016 Suboxone is available as a General Benefit on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary

Influenza

- The health unit has received reports of influenza illness requiring hospitalization among children within our community. Influenza vaccination of children with quadrivalent vaccine is recommended. See [Live attenuated influenza vaccine \(LAIV\) and inactivated influenza vaccines \(IIV\) for children: Information for health care providers on the 2016-2017 recommendations](#)

Be Alert for Pertussis

- Pertussis is circulating in our community. Please refer to our Jan 3rd fax to your office for diagnostic and management details. Infants less than 1 year are the most seriously affected and are at risk for pneumonia, apnea, and death.
- To prevent spread, keep patients with pertussis symptoms out of the main waiting room or offer a mask
- Advise patients to remain home until they are well, to avoid contact with young children, infants, and women in their 3rd trimester of pregnancy, especially those who are unimmunized, until they have completed 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy or 21 days have elapsed since their cough started.
- To diagnose, in symptomatic patients, collect a **nasopharyngeal swab** using a **special colourless transport medium** which can be obtained from the London Public Health Lab. To order specimen collection kits, visit: [Respiratory Specimen](#). Don't test asymptomatic patients.
- Report all suspected and confirmed cases to Public Health by calling 519-631-9900 ext. 1232 or by faxing 519-631-1682.
- Treat symptomatic patients with a macrolide antibiotic. Antibiotics are ineffective 21 days after symptom onset. See table below for dosing.
- The following contacts of confirmed pertussis cases should receive antibiotic prophylaxis:
 - Household contacts (including attendees at family day care centers) where there is a vulnerable person defined as:
 - Infants < 1 year of age [vaccinated or not] or a pregnant woman in the third trimester.

Live Healthy

- For out-of-household exposures, prophylaxis is recommended for:
 - Infants < 1 year of age, regardless of immunization status, and pregnant women in their third trimester who have had face-to-face exposure and/or have shared confined air for > 1 hour.
- Prophylaxis is the same as treatment and should be given within 21 days from the first contact.

Age	Drug	Dosage
Infants (< 1 month)	Azithromycin	10 mg/kg once daily in a single dose for 5 days
Infants (1 - 5 months)	Azithromycin	As per < 1 month
Infants (≥ 6 months and children)	Azithromycin	10 mg/kg po (maximum 500 mg) once for 1 day, then 5 mg/kg po (maximum 250 mg) once daily for 4 days
Adults	Azithromycin	500 mg po once for 1 day then 250 mg po once for 4 days

- Immunization with acellular pertussis vaccine is the mainstay for the control of pertussis. Update the immunization status of contacts and cases if required.

Live Healthy

elginhealth.on.ca