



NSW INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT ALGORITHM – ‘PROTECT’ PHASE

Person presents with influenza symptoms
(Fever and respiratory symptoms)

At reception, ensure that patient is wearing a surgical mask correctly.
Ask patient to use alcohol-based hand rub.
Ask patient to sit apart from other patients while waiting.

Use appropriate infection control measures.
Perform clinical assessment for influenza
(Good history of fever, or measured temp $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ AND acute respiratory illness)
If influenza is a likely diagnosis consider:

What is the severity of the patient's disease?

MODERATE OR SEVERE DISEASE

Early commencement of anti-influenza medication.
Use normal urgent referral mechanisms, if required.

MILD DISEASE

Is the patient from a vulnerable group?

NO **YES**

- Vulnerable groups**
- Chronic diseases, such as:
 - chronic respiratory disease (including asthma)
 - chronic cardiac disease (except simple hypertension)
 - chronic renal disease
 - haemoglobinopathies
 - chronic neurological conditions
 - metabolic disorders (such as diabetes)
 - immunosuppression (including cancers, through certain medications, or HIV/AIDS infection)
 - Morbid obesity
 - Pregnant women (particularly in 2nd and 3rd trimester)
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of any age

Patient with mild illness, not in a vulnerable group:

- advise patient regarding symptomatic management.
- advise to seek urgent medical attention if their condition deteriorates.
- do not provide with free anti-influenza medication
- may get a private script filled through community pharmacy.

Patient with mild illness and in a vulnerable group:

- advise patient regarding symptomatic management.
- consider treatment with free anti-influenza medication if less than 48 hours from symptom onset – enter information onto the *GP and AMS Anti-influenza Treatment Record Form*
- advise to seek urgent medical attention if their condition deteriorates.

1. If the patient is in a high risk setting (such a residential care facility or a school for children with special needs) or is a health care worker caring for vulnerable groups notify your local public health unit
2. For all other patients influenza is notifiable by laboratories only



IF YOU ARE COUGHING or SNEEZING

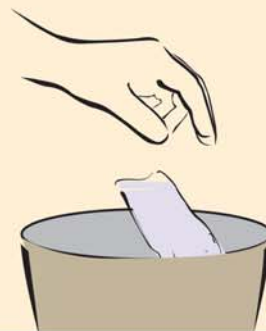


Use your inside Sleeve

OR Use a Tissue



Throw into
the garbage



Wash your
hands or use
hand sanitizer



If you are
COUGHING CONTINUOUSLY
please ask a staff member
for a mask.

