

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?

- 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

NO

YES

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