

Dear Care Home Manager,

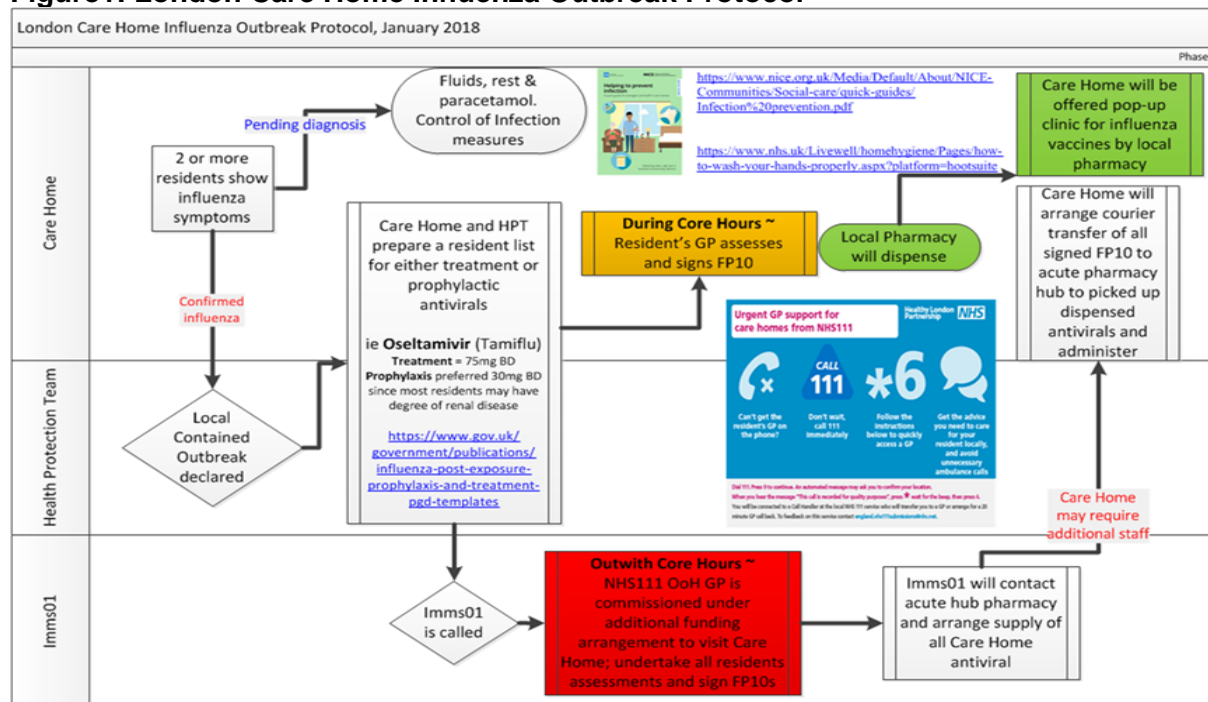
As you will be aware care home residents are at increased risk of contracting influenza and in our efforts to contain outbreaks of influenza in care homes we have developed a new out of hours pathway to manage patients who present with influenza like symptoms.

The new protocol means care home staff must call 111 *6 for **out of hours** advice and support when two or more residents present with influenza like symptoms.

- 111 will coordinate a primary care / public health response to confirm a contained influenza outbreak.
- At this stage, a primary care team will prepare a resident list for treatment or prophylactic antivirals, the primary care team will liaise with a Public Health England commissioner who will liaise with the local acute hub pharmacy and arrange a supply of antiviral medications. (Please be advised a PHE commissioner is on-call at all time to support and restore the system using non-contracted but fully funded system-resilience action plans).
- The care home will need to arrange a courier transfer of all signed FP10 to the acute pharmacy hub to pick up dispensed antivirals to administer to residents
- Additional nursing (from community) and Health Care Assistant's from Local authority to supplement established staff
- Conveyance to hospital should be avoided where possible for influenza like symptoms – LAS to refer care home back to 111 *6 for contained influenza outbreak management and antiviral administration

During core hours care homes should contact their registered GP practice who will follow local protocol

Figure1: London Care Home Influenza Outbreak Protocol



If you have any queries please contact Head of Public Health Commissioning for London, Kenny Gibson Kenny.Gibson@nhs.net or the Care Closer to Home Team, hlp.carecloser2home@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,
Care Closer to Home Team