
THE PRESCRIPTION REVIEW PROGRAM

The Prescription Review Program (the Program) gathers data regarding a panel of prescription drugs subject to misuse and/or diversion.

PROGRAM PARTNERS:

- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS)
- Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP)
- College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS)
- Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA)
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (MOH)

OBJECTIVE:

To encourage appropriate prescribing of a select panel of prescription drugs, and reduce the misuse and diversion of these drugs.

THE PROGRAM:

1. Alerts prescribers to possible multiple doctoring, as well as potentially inappropriate prescribing or use of medications to which the Program applies. Physicians are alerted directly by the Program, while other prescribers are contacted by their regulatory College.
2. Alerts the relevant professional regulatory body where the data indicates prescribing and/or dispensing practices that may not be consistent with acceptable professional standards; and
3. Encourages appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices by providing professional guidance to both prescribers and pharmacists.

PRESCRIBER PARTICIPATION:

Current minimum legal standards for any prescription may be found in [Regulatory Bylaw 17.1](#) of the CPSS. Prescribers may prescribe any of the medications on the panel of monitored drugs so long as the following information is contained on each prescription, in addition to the legal requirements, as per [Regulatory Bylaw 18.1](#):

- a) The patient's date of birth;
- b) The patient's address;
- c) The patient's health services number;
- d) The total quantity of medication prescribed, both numerically and in written form; except when prescribing electronically, by email or by fax when only one form is acceptable or available; and
- e) The prescriber's name and address.

Verbal prescriptions cannot be issued for any of the products included in the Program. Faxed prescriptions are acceptable if done according to the published guidelines for faxing prescriptions. For more information, please consult the SCPP policy on [electronic transmission](#) of prescriptions.

DATA COLLECTION:

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) electronic network with pharmacies will receive and store prescription information for benefit and non-benefit monitored drugs, for DPEBB beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries who have a Saskatchewan Health Card, and send this information electronically to the Program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Program does not apply to medication orders for hospital inpatients, inmates of federal correctional facilities located in Saskatchewan, or prescriptions issued by veterinarians.

While under federal law many of these drugs can be prescribed verbally, the written prescription requirement outlined in Bylaw 18.1 continues for all drugs under the Program.

Prescription refills are NOT permitted for any medication monitored by the Program, but are permitted under the Program when issued in writing for:

- a) Controlled Drugs Level I and II, including Preparations, if the prescriber has specified the number, and frequency or interval between refills. Refer to [Drug Distribution by Prescription](#) for more information.

Pharmacists may dispense part fills at their discretion, or prescribers may request part fills, if the following information is set out in the prescription:

- a) The total quantity;
- b) The amount to be dispensed each time; and
- c) The time interval between fills.

Patient drug utilization profiles for the drugs in the Program, as well as all other prescription drugs, are accessible electronically through the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) on the PIP website and on the eHR Viewer, by those prescribers and pharmacists actively involved in the professional care of the patient in question. All prescribers and pharmacists are strongly encouraged to utilize the information available to them in the PIP when prescribing drugs that are high risk and/or dealing with patients who are high risk. Information about the PIP is accessible at www.ehealthsask.ca/services/pip. To inquire about receiving access to the PIP, please contact the eHealth Saskatchewan Service Desk at servicedesk@eHealthSask.ca or 1-888-316-7446.

If a prescriber or pharmacist is concerned about a patient's drug utilization history, they may contact the Program personally for confidential information during weekday daytime hours at 306-244-7355, or after hours at 1-800-667-1668.

DRUGS SUBJECT TO THE PRESCRIPTION REVIEW PROGRAM:

A list of drugs subject to the Prescription Review Program is contained in [Regulatory Bylaw 18.1](#).

The list is subject to change from time to time. Prescribers and pharmacists will be advised directly of the effective date of any additions or deletions. Questions should be directed to the CPSS at 306-244-7355, or to the SPP at 306-584-2292.