



POLICY

Prescribing: Access to the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) or electronic Health Record (eHR) Viewer

STATUS:	DRAFT
Approved by Council:	Month/Year
Amended:	
To be reviewed:	TBD

Preamble

The Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) has been developed with the primary purpose of improving patient care in Saskatchewan. The PIP program provides authorized Saskatchewan health care providers access through a secure computer network to information about drugs dispensed to Saskatchewan patients in Saskatchewan community pharmacies, and also permits authorized providers to enter allergy/intolerance information and to ePrescribe.

The electronic Health Record (eHR) Viewer is a secure website that authorized health care providers can use to access patient information in Saskatchewan. It includes information such as medication information, laboratory results, medical imaging reports, and records of hospital visits. The eHR Viewer includes medication information from the Pharmaceutical Information Program, including medications dispensed by any community pharmacy in Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan residents with a valid Health Services Number (HSN) for the past 25 months.

Access to information within the PIP and eHR Viewer assists physicians in providing the best possible quality of medical care to their patients.

Guiding principles

The College recognizes that optimal prescribing requires access to a patient's past and current medication profile, including current prescriptions and dosages. Ideally, physicians or their administrative staff with appropriate credentials should access a patient's medication profile in the PIP or the eHR Viewer prior to writing any prescription, and particularly for Prescription Review Program (PRP) medications. The review of this information has the potential to reduce risk by alerting physicians to contraindications and allergies, therefore preventing harmful drug interactions and combinations. It also has the potential to alert physicians to patients who are not taking their medications as prescribed, and to assist in preventing patients from obtaining multiple prescriptions for the same or similar medications from multiple providers.

However, the College recognizes that there are still systemic and technical challenges that prevent some physicians from regularly accessing the PIP or the eHR Viewer. These challenges can include a lack of or unreliable internet access and lack of access to either platform in certain facilities. Additionally, the College recognizes that there remains a lack of awareness of the ability to integrate Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems and the PIP/eHR Viewer, and in some cases a lack of operability in such integration. This has presented an additional barrier to the efficient use of the PIP/eHR Viewer.

College expectations for all physicians licensed in Saskatchewan

All physicians licensed in Saskatchewan must have active login capability with either the PIP and/or the eHR Viewer.

When access is available, the College encourages physicians to view a patient's medication profile in the PIP or the eHR Viewer prior to prescribing.

Other resources

POLICY – Physicians Accessing Patient Specific Information from Electronic Databases

GUIDELINE – The 2017 Canadian Guideline for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain