

November 23, 2005

## **ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO DRUG HISTORIES OF PATIENTS**

The McGuinty government is launching a new project that gives hospital emergency departments electronic access to the prescription drug history of more than two million patients who are recipients of provincially funded drug programs.

### **Benefits for Emergency Department Patients**

This electronic access means doctors and nurses can provide more informed patient care in an emergency situation. It will benefit patients by:

- Allowing quick identification and prevention of harmful drug reactions
- Helping doctors and nurses make faster emergency assessments and provide diagnosis and treatment sooner
- Making sure a patient's current medications are continued in hospital, if needed
- Assisting those who can't communicate or may not remember their medication name, and strength
- Reducing the need for patients to repeat their drug information to several health care providers involved in their care.

### **How Electronic Access to Records Works**

A web-based application known as the Drug Profile Viewer enables authorized emergency department staff to immediately view an ODB recipient's drug claims history. This is an electronic record of all prescription drugs covered by the ODB program, dispensed by an Ontario pharmacist and submitted to the ministry for payment.

The doctor or nurse can then use this information when deciding how best to provide treatment to the patient.

