
Emergency Department Access to Drug History Project/Drug Profile Viewer (DPV) System

The Ontario government is committed to eHealth – sharing health information securely to improve health care delivery and patient care. The Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care in collaboration with Canada Health Infoway, is currently undertaking the Emergency Department (ED) Access to Drug History Project. The mandate is to develop and implement a Drug Profile Viewer System (the System) which will enable the secure sharing of provincial drug claims information with health care providers.

Most Ontario hospital emergency departments will be provided with electronic access to the drug claims history of patients who receive benefits through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and the Trillium Drug Program. This will help health care providers to quickly identify and prevent harmful drug reactions, and provide more informed emergency care.

The Drug Profile Viewer System is now available in over 70 hospitals. Full provincial roll-out began in February 2006 and will be completed by Summer 2006.

Project Overview – Delivering eHealth Solutions

The Drug Programs Branch (DPB) is responsible for the delivery of the ODB Program that provides coverage for more than 3400 drug products to all eligible recipients. Through the program, the Ministry has been maintaining the

Health Network System (HNS), a province-wide electronic network system that records the prescription drug history of ODB recipients. The Ministry is expanding its use of the HNS to enable the sharing of this data with hospital emergency departments.

The System is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and includes the following products and services:

1. A Web-enabled application that is:
 - deployed to all hospital sites that have a emergency department and are connected to the Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA) secure network;
 - provides health care providers in emergency departments with the ability to view and print an individual's ODB drug claims information, unless that individual has withdrawn consent;
 - maintains detailed records and audit trails of user access to ODB drug histories; and,
 - is replicable by *Infoway* in other jurisdictions.
2. Software to manage the consent directives of ODB recipients.
3. Software to support the production of reports that provide the DPB with statistics on system use.
4. A registration management system to support the identification, enrolment and access privileges of system users.

The System will be maintained and operated on an ongoing basis under the direction of the Ministry. Ongoing technical support to hospital staff is provided by the hospitals and the eHealth Support Desk.

Infrastructure Services – Supporting the System

Technology Infrastructure required to support a secure network connectivity between the hospitals and the System is provided by SSHA. (For more information on SSHA, see www.ssha.on.ca.)

The System – Delivering the Benefits of eHealth

Benefits to ODB Patients:

- Providing emergency departments electronic access to drug history can benefit patients by:
 - assisting health care providers to quickly identify and prevent harmful drug reactions
 - providing missing information if a patient is incapable or cannot remember their medications
 - helping to ensure a patient’s current medications are continued in hospital if needed
 - reducing the need for patients to repeat their drug information to multiple providers involved in their care
 - potentially reducing the time needed for an emergency medical assessment and allowing for a faster diagnosis

Benefits to Healthcare Providers:

- Access to drug history is immediate – in real time – and is simple to use. It will take between 20 and 30 seconds to print the profile.

- Allows for faster recognition and prevention of adverse drug reactions,
- Potentially shortens the medical assessments and allows for a faster diagnosis,
- Minimal user training is required,
- Provides the ability to obtain information about patient compliance and behaviour.

Privacy and Security Measures–Safeguarding Vital Patient Information

Pursuant to Ontario’s new privacy legislation, the *Personal Health Information Protection Act* (PHIPA), the Ministry may rely on the implied consent of ODB recipients to make their drug claims information available to hospital ED health care providers where the requirements pertaining to consent are met.

Individuals who do not wish to make all or part of their ODB drug claims profile available to EDs may withdraw their consent by notifying the Ministry.

The Ministry is providing ODB recipients with information about disclosure through various communication vehicles. The Drug Programs Branch is managing public inquiries related to the Project and/or consent.

The System is implemented in full compliance with PHIPA and other applicable legislation, as well as all Ministry and SSHA security, privacy, and confidentiality protocols. Privacy impact assessments and threat risk assessments are being conducted at various stages of the project to identify and mitigate any potential risks.

Only authorized users are able to access the System to view ODB drug claim history information. Individual hospitals authorize users to access the System.

Ongoing input and direction is sought from the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Stakeholder Consultation – Working Together to Build the System

The DPV System's requirements are being developed with input from various stakeholders to align goals and objectives for clinical information-sharing. Stakeholder consultation & Information sessions involving representatives of Ontario's e-Health Councils, professional associations, and front-lines users were conducted in the Summer 2004. Input from these sessions was used to develop the requirements for the System. Ongoing feedback from stakeholders is solicited through the engagement of a Stakeholder User Group.

About Canada Infoway

Canada Health Infoway is an independent, not-for-profit corporation, formed as a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Its mission is to help develop and foster adoption of compatible electronic health information systems in Canada. Infoway has identified shared pharmacy information as vital to the success of an Electronic Health Record (EHR). (For more information on Infoway, see www.infoway.ca).

For questions and additional information on this Project, contact:

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Find out more

For information about Ministry health services and resources :
www.health.gov.on.ca

Project Information Web Sites

Public:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/drugs/eda_mn.html

Health Care Provider:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/eda_drug/eda_drug_mn.html