

Can I Prevent my Prescription Information from Being Viewed by Health Professionals?

While there are many benefits to the Pharmaceutical Information Program, it is recognized that some people may not be comfortable with the electronic sharing of their prescription information. A “masking” option, where residents are able to request that their prescriptions be hidden from view, is available. Individuals who would like to investigate this option should call 1-800-667-1672 or go to Saskatchewan Health’s website at www.health.gov.sk.ca for more information.

It is important to note that exceptions to masking may be provided in critical health situations, such as in an emergency or to prevent harm to the patient.

Questions:

If you have questions about the Pharmaceutical Information Program, or would like a print out of your prescription history, please contact:

Saskatchewan Health
Drug Plan & Extended Benefits Branch
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 6X6

In Regina: 787-8963
In Saskatchewan: 1-800-667-1672

Fax (306) 787-8679
www.health.gov.sk.ca



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THE PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

Rx



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What is the Pharmaceutical Information Program?

The Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) will improve the health of Saskatchewan residents, by providing authorized health care professionals (e.g. pharmacists and physicians) with confidential access to patient medication records. Having access to quality information about their patients will help Saskatchewan health care professionals offer the highest quality of care.

Prior to the introduction of PIP, there was no centralized, complete source of prescription records for health care providers to use when making decisions about a patient's drug therapy. PIP will ensure that individuals and their health care providers have the information needed to make the best decisions about their health care.

The Pharmaceutical Information Program is a major step forward in enhancing patient safety. The program will help prescribers select the best medication to avoid drug interactions and duplications of therapy, including prescription drug abuse. PIP will also help health professionals sort through the numerous medications a person may be taking when treating medical conditions, or where several prescribers are involved in a patient's care.

How Does PIP Obtain Prescription Information?

Initially, PIP will use information from the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. Since the Drug Plan's inception, information has been collected about prescriptions to determine a resident's eligibility for benefits, and as a record of payments made by the Drug Plan. In 2004, the Drug Plan was enhanced to collect information on all prescriptions dispensed from community pharmacies, including those that were not previously collected under the Drug Plan. This was done to build a complete record of prescriptions to help health professionals make more informed drug therapy decisions.

The Pharmaceutical Information Program will be extended in future phases to include information entered directly by physicians and other health care providers, such as allergy information, and prescriptions entered electronically by prescribers.

What Information is Collected?

Prescription information is collected under the authority of *The Prescription Drugs Act*, and includes:

- Your Health Services Number or other identifying information;
- Certain information about your prescription, including the date dispensed, the drug, the quantity of drug, the prescriber, and the pharmacy.

Safeguarding Your Information

Your personal health information is confidential and only authorized health care professionals involved in your care will access it.

Saskatchewan Health takes great care to protect the personal health information under its control. Information is kept in strict confidence, and is used or disclosed as authorized by law. Privacy safeguards outlined in *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA) apply to the Pharmaceutical Information Program.

Safeguards are in place to ensure only health professionals involved in your care access your personal health information in PIP:

- All health care providers are made aware of their responsibilities and agree to maintain the confidentiality of information and use it only on a need-to-know basis.
- All access to the PIP data is tracked and recorded for audit purposes. You can request a printout of who has accessed your information in PIP.

In addition, strict security safeguards are also in place. We have policies and/or practices and computer systems that are designed to protect your information from unauthorized use, error and loss. User access is restricted to authorized health care professionals. High-quality network security is in place and all electronic messages are encrypted.