



National Incident Data Repository

Safety Brief

Alberta Data

from community pharmacies

Reporting period: October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

1,593 reports received

Note: Reporting was mandatory as of February 1, 2026.

Medication System Stage(s) Involved

Prescription preparation/dispensing	1,139
Prescription order entry	771
Prescribing	93
Administration	46
Monitoring/follow-up	32

"Not applicable" was reported in 68 incidents

Top 5 Types of Incidents (including close calls)

Incorrect dose/frequency	410
Incorrect drug	254
Incorrect quantity	241
Incorrect strength/concentration	168
Incorrect patient	133

Reported Degree of Harm to Patient

Close call (e.g., no error)	748
No harm	780
Mild harm	58
Moderate harm	6
Severe harm	0
Death	1

Note: Values reflect data submitted by platform providers within this reporting period.

National Learning

Alberta community pharmacies contribute to improvement initiatives to advance patient safety. Reporting of medication incidents, including close calls, reflects a growing commitment to a culture of safety in Canada.

A selected focus for this safety brief is recurring reports involving multiple prescription entries in the dispensing software to complete a treatment regimen (e.g., multiple strengths of a single medication or multiple medications for complementary effect).



The following tips can help to minimize these types of incidents:

SAFETY TIP: If using the "copy" function during order entry for medications that may require multiple strengths, conduct a full profile review to ensure no new prescriptions have been missed and no previous prescriptions remain active.

- **Example:** Multiple prescriptions of different strengths are used for prednisone tapering regimens

SAFETY TIP: Require that a pharmacy professional consult the original prescription during a final check to confirm that all prescribed medications have been entered and dispensed, particularly those intended to be used together.

- **Example:** Multiple prescriptions for complementary effect are used for fertility (and other hormone) treatment

A key component of ISMP Canada data analysis is a review of the incident descriptions. The efforts by reporters to provide information that helps identify emerging issues and shared learning opportunities are gratefully acknowledged.

Additional safety recommendations can be found in ISMP Canada Safety Bulletins: <https://ismpcanada.ca/safety-bulletins/>

REPORT ✓ **LEARN** ✓ **ACT** ✓

More than 1,700 reports of medication incidents have been submitted to the National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies (NIDR) from Alberta since 2025.

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