



National Incident Data Repository

Safety Brief

Newfoundland and Labrador Data

from community pharmacies

Reporting period: October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

530 reports received

Stages of Medication-Use Process

Prescription preparation/dispensing	447
Prescription order entry	303
Prescribing	46
Administration	36
Monitoring/follow-up	11

"Not applicable" was reported in 24 incidents

Types of Incidents (including near misses) (Top 5)

Incorrect dose/frequency	142
Incorrect drug	88
Incorrect patient	62
Omitted medication/dose	52
Incorrect strength/concentration	47

Reported Levels of Harm

Near miss (e.g., no error)	125
No harm	350
Mild harm	53
Moderate harm	2
Severe harm	0
Death	0

National Learning

Newfoundland and Labrador community pharmacies contribute to national learning and safety initiatives that incorporate learning from reported medication incidents and suggest system safeguards to prevent patient harm.

A selected focus for this safety brief is incidents associated with medication management in the community following **hospital discharge**. In Newfoundland and Labrador, within this subset of reports (n=12), incorrect dose/frequency, incorrect drug, and omitted medication/dose were the top 3 types of incidents.



The following tips may help optimize safe transition of care following hospital discharge:

SAFETY TIP: Conduct a comprehensive medication reconciliation with the patient (or caregiver) after hospital discharge.

- In addition to the patient/caregiver, consult the hospital discharge summary and prescription list as key sources of medication information.
- Identify discontinued medications, changes in medication doses, and new medications, and update the patient record accordingly.
- Clarify any unclear prescriptions with a hospital team member (e.g., pharmacist).
- Incorporate an independent double check, or a delayed self-check, to minimize confirmation bias.

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 950 reports of medication incidents have been submitted to the National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies (NIDR) from Newfoundland and Labrador since 2024.

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