National Incident Data Repository Safety Brief

Newfoundland and Labrador Data

from community pharmacies
Reporting period: April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

422 reports received

Stages of Medication-Use Process	
Prescription preparation/dispensing	353
Prescription order entry	**253**
Prescribing	33
Administration	13
Monitoring/follow-up	10

"Not applicable" was reported in 15 incidents

Types of Incidents (including near misses) **(Top 5)**	
Incorrect dose/frequency	96
Incorrect patient	56
Incorrect drug	51
Omitted medication/dose	46
Incorrect quantity	**45**

Reported Levels of Harm	
No error (e.g., near miss)	131
No harm	281
Mild harm	10
Moderate harm	0
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 errors associated with prescription transfers. In Newfoundland and Labrador, within this subset of errors (n=5), the order entry stage was most often involved (80%), and incorrect quantity was among the top 5 types of error.

The following tips can optimize safe transcription of transferred prescriptions:

SAFETY TIP: Send a copy of the original prescription along with the transfer record, to facilitate technical and clinical verification by the receiving pharmacy.

SAFETY TIP: Include in the order entry process a double check of the transfer record, particularly of fields that lack units of measure and can differ between pharmacy dispensing systems (e.g., "quantity" could be "1" [bottle] in some, and "50" [mL] in others).

SAFETY TIP: When providing a transferred prescription at pick-up, ask the patient to confirm that it is the expected medication and dose.

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 400 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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National Incident Data Repository | Référentiel de données nationales sur les incidents

CMIRPS SCDPIM
Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System
Système canadien de déclaration et de prévention des incidents médicamenteux