



COVID-19

Sharing and learning
through incident reporting

NSIR

National System
for Incident Reporting



Canadian Institute
for Health Information
Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

Collect. Analyze. Share. Learn.



Welcome to the quarterly National System for Incident Reporting (NSIR) electronic bulletin. This is where you can find information on medication and radiation treatment incident reporting and analysis for sharing and learning across Canada.

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Highlights

COVID-19 and CIHI

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is committed to collecting, analyzing and sharing credible health data to help improve our health care systems and the health of all Canadians. We've compiled our key reports and resources containing information related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic and will update our [COVID-19 resources web page](#) with new content when it is available.

Please check our [Upcoming releases](#) page to see what lies ahead.

COVID-19: Sharing and learning through NSIR incident reporting

Medication and radiation treatment incidents continue to be submitted regularly to NSIR by participating facilities across Canada. In some cases, facilities have provided information on incidents that involved patients who screened positive for COVID-19 and/or that highlighted pandemic-related policies which may have contributed to the incident, such as completing unsafe transfers, using code blue, restricting items in treatment rooms or extending IV tubing to enable distancing.

Reporting incidents at this unique time, given the new COVID-19 precautions and regionalized guidance/recommendations, is invaluable. Submitting COVID-19-related incidents to NSIR allows NSIR partners to identify system issues — both new and pre-existing — and to share recommendations across Canada. Currently, incidents reported to NSIR are anonymously shared with NSIR partners — including Health Canada, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR) — as well as with NSIR submitters.

Thank you to participating facilities for sharing your experience with COVID-19-related incidents through NSIR.

Sharing and learning

ISMP Canada's recent alerts and safety bulletins

[Counterfeit Respirators](#)

[Three Lots of Antidiuretic DDAVP Spray Recalled Because of Potential Overdose Risk](#)

[Intravenous Medication Safety: A Multi-Incident Analysis](#)

[Recall of Certain Hand Sanitizers That May Pose Health Risks](#)

[Hospital to Home: Know Your Medications Before You Leave](#)

[Learning From Canada's National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies](#)

[Hand Sanitizers and Children's Safety: What You Need to Know](#)

[ESBRIET \(Pirfenidone\) and the Risk of Drug-Induced Liver Injury](#)

[Safer Choices for Pain Control After Wisdom Tooth Removal](#)

[Allergan Inc. Voluntarily Withdraws Its Drug Fibrystal, Used to Treat Uterine Fibroids, From the Canadian Market](#)

[Unauthorized Access to Methadone in a Community Pharmacy Contributes to Death](#)

ISMP Canada: Medication errors happen

ISMP Canada has launched a new bilingual consumer reporting portal: [Medication Error Reporting](#) / [La déclaration des erreurs médicamenteuses](#). A collaborative team of dedicated patients, family members, practitioners and pan-Canadian organizations has worked to improve the medication error reporting experience for consumers. A [video](#) shares information about how the new portal was developed and the need for increased medication error reporting and shared learning in Canada.

With the support of the [Canadian Patient Safety Institute \(CPSI\)](#), the goal is to reach as many consumers as possible to encourage reporting of medication errors.

CPSI: Global Patient Safety Alerts

[Global Patient Safety Alerts](#) allows organizations around the world to share information about patient safety risks and effective ways to manage these risks and prevent harm. The goal is to help ensure that no one is caught without a solution to a problem others have already solved, and that no patient has to needlessly suffer harm as a result.

NSIR — Radiation Treatment (RT)

NSIR-RT updates

The **Application Program Interface (API)**, which enables a system-to-system connection between NSIR-RT and a vendor system, is now in operation. Our partners at BC Patient Safety & Learning System have implemented the connection in their system, and we are receiving data from B.C.'s 6 regional cancer care centres.

What does this mean? If an incident involving radiation treatment occurs at a B.C. cancer centre and is entered into the provincial incident reporting system, it will also be uploaded to NSIR-RT. The process in that province ensures that each record that is entered by front-line providers in the BC Patient Safety & Learning System is followed up by trained handlers, and is reviewed for completeness and consistent coding by content experts; the process also ensures that any identifiers are removed. Once the incident is in our system via the API, staff at CIHI review the text fields to check for patient, provider or facility identifiers before releasing the incident to the analytical environment for all users.

Can other centres use the API? Yes! It requires some work to ensure the data you collect matches the NSIR-RT data standard, including data validations, and to create and test the system links. However, once you're set up, you no longer need to manually enter incidents into NSIR-RT one by one. Email nsir@cihi.ca if you're interested in learning more.

Is the API available for medication incidents? No, not at this time. Currently, there is a similar process that allows a batch of records to be uploaded from a local system to NSIR-Rx, though it does not connect the systems. Email nsir@cihi.ca if you're interested in learning more.

Additional information

Upcoming conferences and learning



[ISMP Canada Med Safety Exchange webinar series](#)

Join your colleagues across Canada for ISMP Canada's complimentary bimonthly 50-minute webinars, where they share, learn about and discuss incident reports, as well as trends and emerging issues in medication safety.

To register and for more information on this series, please visit [ISMP Canada — Med Safety Exchange](#).

Recent CIHI releases

[COVID-19 cases and deaths among health care workers in Canada](#)

September 3, 2020

Health care workers across the country play a critical role in the COVID-19 pandemic. CIHI has compiled rates of COVID-19 cases, including number of deaths, among health care workers in Canada. This data can help ministries of health, professional associations and others to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on the health workforce.

[Long-term care homes in Canada: How many and who owns them?](#)

September 24, 2020

As of May 25, 2020, more than 80% of COVID-19 deaths in Canada have been in long-term care (LTC) homes (which offer 24-hour nursing care) and retirement homes. This has fuelled a strong interest in gathering information about LTC homes, in particular, including the type of ownership.

[COVID-19 Intervention Scan](#)

October 16, 2020

Explore information on federal, provincial and territorial government interventions, announcements and other measures to stop the spread of and improve health outcomes related to COVID-19.

[Hospital Harm Results, 2014–2015 to 2019–2020 — Data Tables](#)

October 22, 2020

The Hospital Harm Project is a partnership between CIHI and CPSI. CIHI developed the Hospital Harm measure, which looks at unintended occurrences of harm in acute care hospitals that could have been potentially prevented by implementing evidence-informed practices. National results of the Hospital Harm measure are reported annually.

Contact us



Thank you for taking the time to read the NSIR eBulletin. Unless otherwise stated, the reported NSIR findings are based on the voluntary reporting of incidents at participating health care facilities across Canada. If there is anything you would like to see featured in an upcoming edition, please contact us at nsir@cihi.ca.

The NSIR eBulletin is distributed on a quarterly basis. Previous editions can be found on the [NSIR web page](#).

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