



Celebrating 10 years of partnership
with **data providers**

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.

If you are having difficulty viewing this email, please see the attached PDF version.

Inside this issue

Highlights

- [Happy 10th anniversary, NSIR!](#)

Sharing and learning

- [ISMP Canada's recent alerts and safety bulletins](#)

NSIR — Radiation Treatment (RT)

- [CPQR's safety bulletin](#)
- [Radiation therapy submissions using application program interface](#)
- [CPQR's NSIR-RT bulletin](#)

Additional information

- [Upcoming conferences and learning](#)
- [Recent CIHI releases](#)

Contact us

Highlights

Happy 10th anniversary, NSIR!

2021 marks 10 years of sharing and learning from incident data collected across Canada.

Over 900 health care facilities are registered with NSIR to submit voluntary, anonymous incident reports for medication and radiation treatment incidents. These include 40 radiation treatment facilities across the country — and all sites in Ontario and British Columbia.

Over 75,000 incidents have been shared for learning and prevention, including over 9,000 incidents that led to harm to the patient and 231 that caused serious harm or death. This incident data is made available for analysis to participating sites and to NSIR partners — including Health Canada, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR) — to enable the development of recommendations and strategies to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

These successes and milestones are due to partnerships with patient safety leaders who are committed to incident reporting and to working with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) to support information sharing. 2 provinces have led incident reporting activities and been integral to the successes of NSIR:

BC Patient Safety & Learning System: Trailblazers in reporting

Many of NSIR's firsts have been due to the efforts of the BC Patient Safety & Learning System (BCPSLS) team under the leadership of executive director Annemarie Taylor. BCPSLS was the first provincial incident reporting system to submit incidents to NSIR via batch upload. It helped CIHI test and implement this method of data submission for medication incidents; at the time, all other NSIR users were submitting incidents using the online platform. As technology quickly advanced, BCPSLS also took on the challenge to be the first to implement NSIR's new API (application programming interface), which allows for system-to-system submission of radiation treatment incidents to NSIR-RT. Again, BCPSLS worked with the NSIR team to roll out this new functionality. Batch upload and the API allow facilities with provincial reporting requirements to participate in NSIR without having to enter data twice.

BCPSLS has also been a strong leader around the NSIR Advisory Committee table from the beginning. In addition to supporting advances in system technology, Ms. Taylor has brought her expertise in provincial and regional patient safety activities to NSIR. She has shared her experience tackling system issues based on the data, as well as on BCPSLS's efforts to build capacity in incident reporting and prevention across the province.

The comprehensiveness of BCPSLS's data is impressive as it covers acute care, long-term care and cancer treatment facilities. Ms. Taylor and her team have provided the NSIR community with a unique view of patient safety incident reporting at the provincial level, and we are grateful.

Saskatchewan Health Authority: Understanding the power of data

It is impossible to celebrate the 10th anniversary of NSIR without acknowledging the contribution of Angela Butuk, a medication safety officer at the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). As a long-time member of the NSIR Advisory Committee, Ms. Butuk is known for generously sharing her experience and skill in the collection, analysis and use of medication incident data. NSIR is the beneficiary of her focus on evidence-based decision-making and commitment to data quality.

Ms. Butuk and her team are a dedicated, skilled patient safety resource at SHA. The team regularly contributes high-quality incident data to NSIR for sharing and learning nationwide. They credit the support of their visionary pharmacy team's leadership around medication safety with making participation in NSIR possible. Together, they understand that incident data that has been reviewed contains essential story elements that make it ideal for sharing and learning. Through a review, information may be added to provide details that allow others to better identify with the situation and amplify the story being told by the reporter. The review process is an investment made in data quality that will lead to more relevant and useful data analysis.

Ms. Butuk and her team actively use their data to track trends, focus on different facility groups/functional areas and identify emerging issues. Their findings have been instrumental in identifying patient safety issues (e.g., programming smart pumps) and developing and implementing prevention measures (e.g., the Dilaudid — Stop the Line program, using information from data to inform anaphylaxis protocol development).

We would like to thank Ms. Butuk and her team for showing the power of incident data reported to NSIR.

Sharing and learning

ISMP Canada's recent alerts and safety bulletins

[Important Safety Information on SUBOXONE \(Buprenorphine and Naloxone\) and the Risk of Overdose or Underdose When Switching Between Dosage Forms or Routes of Administration](#)

[Medications Most Frequently Reported in Harm Incidents Over the Past 5 Years \(2015–2020\)](#)

[Oxytocin to Start or Advance Labour: 5 Questions to Ask](#)

[Bacitracin for Injection \(50,000 IU per Vial\) and the Risk of Nephrotoxicity and Anaphylactic Reactions](#)

[Health Canada Warns Canadians Not to Buy COVID-19 Vaccines Sold Online or From Unauthorized Sources](#)

[Calcium and Medications Often Don't Mix](#)

[Laboratoire Atlas Inc. Is Recalling One Lot of "ATLAS — Codeine Phosphate Syrup 5 mg/mL" Because Some Bottles Contain Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol](#)

[GUM Paroex \(Anti-Gingivitis Oral Rinse\) Being Recalled Due to Microbial Contamination That Could Lead to Respiratory and Other Infections in Patients](#)

[Conquer Silence and Ask Questions](#)

[Benzocaine Products Should Not Be Used in Children Under Two Years of Age](#)

[Alert: Risk of Inadvertent Reconstitution of Medications With Cleaning Products](#)

[Another Poisoning Risk: Hand Sanitizers That Look Like Food](#)

NSIR — Radiation Treatment (RT)

CPQR's safety bulletin: Brachytherapy non-metallic intrauterine tandem break in patient

On December 18, CPQR issued a safety bulletin. CIHI forwarded the bulletin to NSIR-RT users on December 23 and sent a follow-up notice that included the French translation on January 14. If you did not receive these notices, please contact us at nsir@cihi.ca.

Radiation treatment submissions using application programming interface

As a result of dedicated effort and patience from many people, radiation treatment incidents submitted to the BCPSLS by BC Cancer are now automatically added to the NSIR-RT database. The API between BCPSLS and NSIR-RT enables this transfer without the need for double data entry as long as the record submitted to BCPSLS meets the NSIR-RT requirements. Thank you to Alison Giddings, RT Educator, BC Cancer, and our partners at BCPSLS, in particular Annemarie Taylor, Executive Director; Inderpal Chani, Senior Technical Manager; and David Gasson, Senior Developer/Architect. You can read more in this [blog post on BCPSLS Central](#).

CPQR's NSIR-RT bulletin

The fall edition of CPQR's NSIR-RT bulletin is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

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

[Impact of COVID-19 on Canada's health care systems](#)

November 19, 2020

- Discover how emergency department visits were affected
- See the impact on hospital stays, surgeries and intensive care unit admissions
- Get a snapshot of trends in physician services
- Find out how home care assessments were affected

[Your Health System: Insight](#)

December 10, 2020

Your Health System: Insight is an analytical tool that allows health care providers and analysts to dig deeper into indicator results. Find out more about what Insight can offer, how to get access and the data refresh schedule, visit [Your Health System: Insight](#).

[Prescribed drug spending in Canada, 2020](#)

December 17, 2020

Take an in-depth look at prescribed drug spending in Canada and learn about how different drug classes contribute to current trends in public drug program spending by visiting [Prescribed drug spending in Canada, 2020](#).

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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