



Information Sheet

NSIR is a voluntary reporting system that provides facilities and regional health authorities with the tools to **collect**, **analyze**, **share** and **learn** from medication incidents.

NSIR's data and analyses inform quality improvement activities to improve medication use across the country.

National System for Incident Reporting

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) collects data on medication and intravenous fluid errors that occur in hospitals and long-term care settings through the National System for Incident Reporting (NSIR).

Key features

- **Comprehensive:** Includes near-misses to severe events
- **Flexible:** Accepts data from existing risk management systems or through direct data entry
- **Informative:** Provides access to own identifiable data and access to de-identified data from other facilities
- **Interactive:** Allows users to enter, analyze and discuss incidents using web-based tools

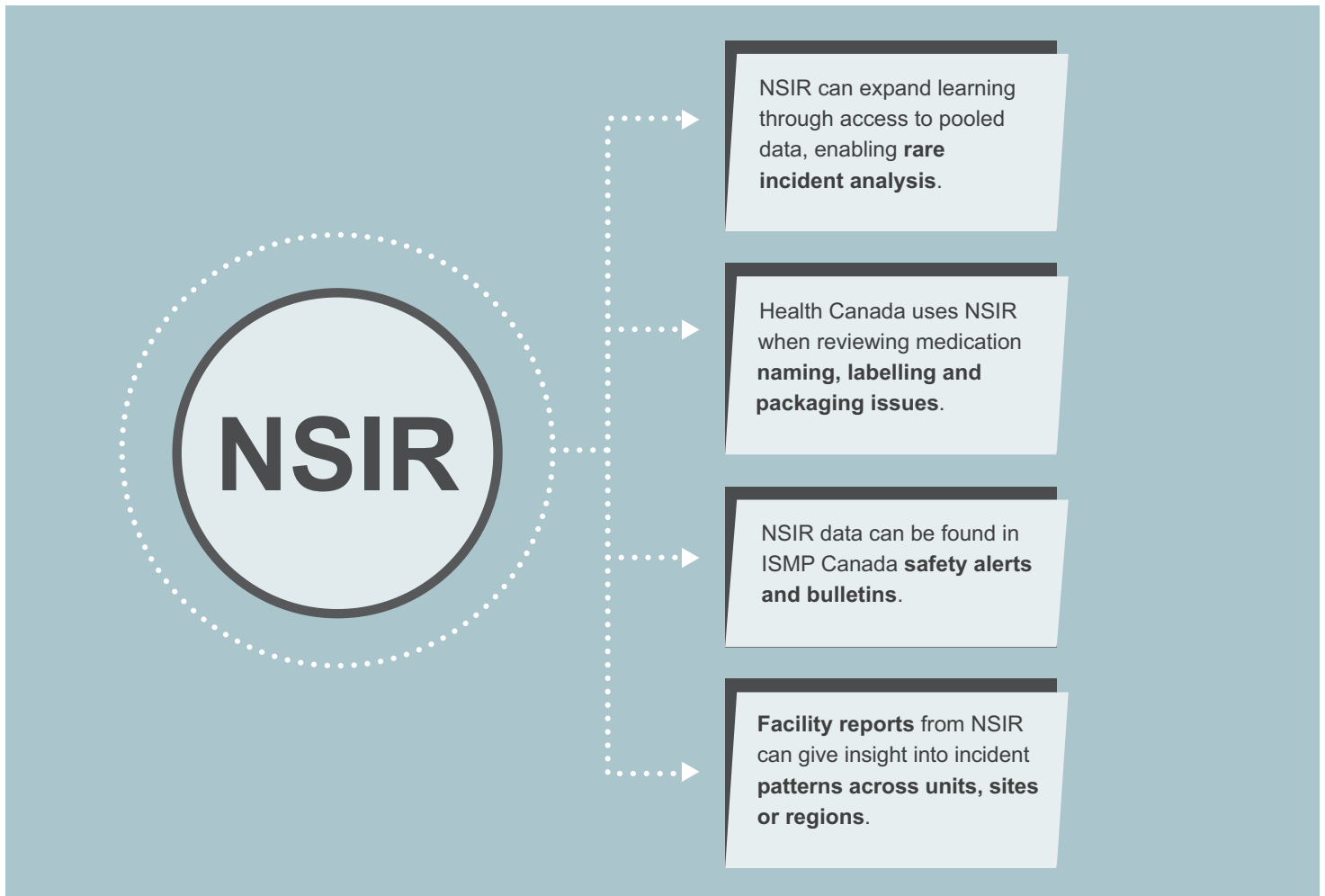
Improving safety nationally and locally

At a national level, NSIR

- Supports sharing and learning from incident reports to help prevent similar events from occurring elsewhere;
- Expands learning about rare incidents through access to pooled data;
- Supports Health Canada's naming, labelling and packaging initiatives; and
- Helps inform the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada's analysis and safety bulletins.

At a local level, NSIR

- Offers insight into the sources of risk and underlying system hazards;
- Helps users understand medication incident patterns across units, sites or regions; and
- Allows for comparisons of one's own data with reporting patterns elsewhere in Canada or in similar types of facilities.



Using NSIR data to provide safer care

Saskatoon Health Region is just one organization using NSIR data to improve patient care. In one nursing unit, their data told them that

- The majority of incidents occurred during morning medication dispensing rounds; and
- Nurses were often distracted with other requests when giving patients their medications.

By identifying these issues, recommendations and strategies were put in place on the unit to reduce these types of incidents:

- Nurses do medication rounds in pairs: 1 nurse dispenses medication and another fields other requests.
- A ward clerk manages all calls to the unit during medication dispensing hours.

How do I participate?

If your facility is interested in participating in NSIR, or if you would like additional information, please contact us at nsir@cihi.ca.