

ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES

Pharmacists will be able to view allergy and intolerance information about their patients. There are two allergy fields within Alberta Netcare EHR – confirmed allergies and suspected allergies. Pharmacists will be authorized to enter suspected allergies that they or their patient have identified. Physicians have the authority to enter both suspected and confirmed allergies.

SECURING AND SHARING PATIENT INFORMATION

Alberta's *Health Information Act* establishes strong mechanisms to protect the privacy of the individual and the confidentiality of their information. The security and privacy of health information in Alberta Netcare EHR follows the highest online security standards in the world and is monitored around the clock to detect unauthorized activity. All information accesses within Alberta Netcare EHR can be audited. Only authorized health care providers will have access to Alberta Netcare EHR (eg. pharmacists, pharmacy technicians physicians, and nurses).

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Whether healthcare professionals record patient information on paper or electronically, they must take care to ensure that patient's health information is accurately entered. The health consequence of a data entry error in Alberta Netcare EHR is far reaching, as this record is shared with providers across the province.

Pharmacists have similar liabilities with electronic records as those associated with managing a paper record.

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"The biggest advantage of Alberta Netcare EHR is the time saved. Information is retrieved fast, whether it is drug information, allergy and intolerance information, prescriber information, patient or prescription information. It contains a lot of information which can be used in many ways to provide better patient care."

THOMAS KELLER

PHARMACIST AND OWNER OF HEALTHCHECK PHARMACY, LEDUC

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WHAT PHARMACISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ALBERTA NETCARE EHR

A prescription for enhanced patient care

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO GET YOU CONNECTED

Studies and reports have highlighted the important role drug information systems play in helping to improve patient care. Alberta has been leading the nation with the development and deployment of Alberta Netcare Electronic Health Record (EHR). To help pharmacies get involved, Alberta Health & Wellness has introduced a funding program, which is managed by the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA). **Under the program, pharmacies are eligible to receive up to \$4,500 each.**

ALBERTA NETCARE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) AT A GLANCE

Alberta Netcare EHR is designed to improve patient care and safety. It is a province-wide, patient-focused network of health information systems. It allows community pharmacists, physicians, hospitals, clinics and other authorized health care professionals to securely view and update a patient's medical information electronically anytime.

The exchange of patient information is not a new practice. Health providers already share records by phone, mail and fax. Alberta Netcare EHR provides a secure, reliable and efficient way to ensure health providers have a common understanding of a patient's health status at the point of care.

Alberta Netcare EHR initially brings pharmacists four types of patient information:

- demographic information
- lab test results
- active medication profiles and drug history (medications, dosage changes, physician notes)
- recorded allergies and intolerances.

By summer 2006, approximately 85 per cent of all lab test results processed across the province will be available in Alberta Netcare.

Physicians are using Netcare in part to prescribe medications electronically. This has been proven to help reduce errors and adverse drug interactions. This also results in fewer callbacks for clarification between pharmacists and physicians.

The intent is not to replace communication between health care providers, but rather to enhance it.

BATCH PLUS

The first step toward integrating Alberta Netcare EHR into your pharmacy is called Batch Plus. This allows pharmacists to send their dispensing information to Alberta Netcare EHR once a day through their pharmacy system. Pharmacies will also be able to look up and add information to Netcare through the Internet. The availability of pharmacy dispensing information will encourage more use by physicians. This will mean even more prescription information will be available.

SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM

This option will enable pharmacists to connect to Alberta Netcare seamlessly through their pharmacy software system. Information will be automatically sent to Netcare during the dispensing or patient consultation process.

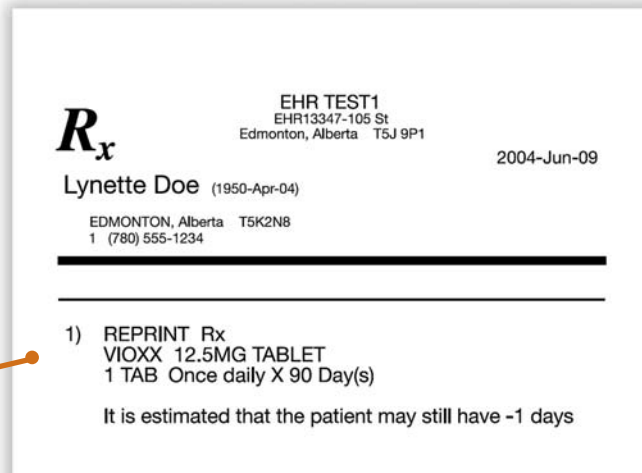
Alberta Health & Wellness is working with pharmacy software vendors to integrate Alberta Netcare within existing pharmacy systems. Contact your vendor for more information about when this will be available to you.

PHARMACY'S ROLE

In addition to viewing medication and lab test information, pharmacists will be able to enter suspected allergies and intolerances and contribute dispensing data that can be viewed by other care providers including doctors. This will ensure all providers have a more complete picture of a patient's health status.

To use Alberta Netcare EHR, pharmacists will need to enter a patient's Provincial Health Number (PHN) into their pharmacy system. This will ensure accuracy and improve patient identification. All PHNs are included in Alberta Netcare.

A recent study by McGill University found that legibility problems in hand-written prescriptions produce a 15 per cent error rate, with two per cent of these mistakes being potentially serious. The benefits of a drug information system like Alberta Netcare EHR will have a dramatic impact on improving patient safety.



BENEFITS TO PHARMACY

By sharing clinical data about the patient, and providing clinical decision-support and reference tools at the point of care, Alberta Netcare will ensure health care providers have the information they need to make optimal care decisions.

The benefits will evolve and include:

- Enhanced patient care
- Printed prescriptions signed by prescribers
- Access lab test results
- Better advice, including over-the-counter drug recommendations, with more complete patient information collected from health providers outside your pharmacy
- Physician-managed drug interaction information
- Detailed physician notes and instructions regarding prescriptions
- Detect prescription abuse (double doctoring)
- Track patient conformance (identify non-filled prescriptions)
- Add suspected allergies and intolerances
- Access to patient information anytime
- Position your pharmacy to deliver enhanced patient care (e.g. future access to lab test results and e-prescriptions)
- Receive 1.5 College Education Credits with your training
- Quick access to physician contact information
- Online reference materials

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Alberta Health & Wellness understands that implementing Alberta Netcare in your pharmacy may require some adjustments in workflow. There is a variety of training available to pharmacies at no cost. The Alberta Netcare deployment team is committed to working with you to ensure a successful transition. Contact the Alberta Netcare deployment team for more information.

See back for contact information.



A prescription for enhanced patient care
Join the many Alberta pharmacists already using Alberta Netcare.

SIGN UP FOR BATCH PLUS TODAY.



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