

This quick reference provides important safety tips when using the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) form.

BPHM Form

The BPMH form generated from Alberta Netcare Portal (ANP), can help practitioners gain a knowledge of medications that a patient is or should be taking. Although the form has some limitations, these limitations can be mitigated if practitioners recognize and take steps against them.



Data

The BPMH form is pre-populated with Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) data, which omits some information.

- PIN data reflects medications dispensed by most Alberta pharmacies, but often omits the following:
 - Medications pertaining to acute care, occupational, institutional, continuing care, or public health
 - Out-of-province, out-of-country or internet purchases
 - Study drugs, samples, and direct-from-clinic/office supplies
- PIN data is generated for every medication dispensed and is not filtered, edited, or curated. As such,
 - Duplicate medications may appear for varying reasons including different prescribers, different preparations, or different brands of the same drug
 - Patients may not be taking dispensed medications, may be taking an adjusted dose, or be on a tapering schedule
 - Tall-man lettering (which decreases likelihood of confusing similar drug names) is not used
 - Prescription stop-conditions are not captured
- PIN data often does not reflect over-the-counter medications, nutritional supplements, vitamins and herbal remedies.



Information

- The BPMH form inputs dispensing information verbatim, displaying patient instructions (e.g., “take 2 tablets once per day”).
- The correct dose, route, frequency and modifiers need to be derived when translating dispensing information to prescribing information. Calculate carefully.
- The imported data includes a dispensing date and a formulation quantity. The date may not reflect when the patient was started on a medication. The quantity displayed reflects what is dispensed to the patient in the community. It will not reflect what is wanted, or appropriate, for admitted patients.
- Complete the Dose/Route/Frequency columns if needed to provide better clarity and accuracy as the PIN data may not be representative or complete and must be confirmed with a second source.

- Be sure to convert to standardized dose measurements (e.g., milligrams, micrograms, milliliters, etc.) .



Lists

- Imported PIN data is sorted by reverse chronology, and is not organized alphabetically, by drug class, or by health condition.
- Duplicates may appear anywhere, not necessarily adjacent to one another.
- The list includes both generic (default) and brand drug names. Be sure to check both.



Timeframes

- Different time intervals can be selected when generating a list. A longer interval (e.g., 12 months) will generate more duplicates, whereas a shorter interval (e.g., 1 month) will be associated with more missed medications.
- The appropriate time span will depend upon frequency of patient follow-up, medication refill allowances, and factors such as extended absences from the province.



Reconciliation

Effective medication reconciliation requires validation of intended and taken medications from at least two sources. Always verify whether (or how) medications are being taken.

- Computerized data is not necessarily accurate or correct. PIN data is a source of medication information, but not a source of truth. Always exercise caution.
- The form is not considered to be a completed BPMH until it has its pre-populated information confirmed with the patient and/or another information source and reconciled by the prescriber.



Innovation

- The Alberta Netcare BPMH form is offered as an aid to clinicians working with patients at transitions of care. Medication reconciliation can be challenging and facilitated access to PIN data can help in this process.
- The Alberta Netcare team is continually striving to improve medication services. Please report issues in one of the following ways:
 - Submit a suggestion/enhancement request within ANP using the **Suggestion Box** link provided at the bottom of the left-most column.
 - Submit an online report to the AHS Reporting & Learning System at insite.ahs.ca/1284.asp, so process improvements can be considered.
 - Submit a telephone report to the AHS Reporting & Learning System at **1-877-338-3854**.