Purpose

Pharmacy teams have questions about how Real Time Integration (RTI) works, the differences between RTI/PIN and RTI/ImmARI, and what steps are required to prepare for recent changes with system integrations. This document has been developed to provide clear information about the new requirements, expected timelines, privacy and PIA considerations, and the impact on pharmacy operations.

Pharmacies are encouraged to review this information carefully and begin planning early to ensure adequate time for implementation and compliance with the **July 2026 deadline**.

My pharmacy already has RTI—does this still apply to me?

RTI has TWO integration streams to Netcare: RTI/ **PIN** and RTI/ **ImmARI**. Many pharmacies have implemented RTI/ PIN only but do not have RTI/ ImmARI.

Refer to the information provided below for more details about RTI that will help sites make informed decisions.

What is Real-Time Integration (RTI)?

RTI is the capability that enables a pharmacy's practice management system to exchange information directly with Alberta's Electronic Health Record (EHR) at the point of care, in real time. Through RTI:

- Pharmacy teams can view patient demographic, medication, and immunization information without leaving their pharmacy system.

- Dispense and immunization data can be submitted automatically in real time, eliminating the need for Pharmacy Batch or Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSM) processes. Pharmacy Batch and IDSM are not real time and are not integrated with a pharmacy's vendor system.

- Updated information becomes immediately available within the provincial EHR, supporting timely, accurate access for other health-care providers involved in a patient's care.

What is Imm/ARI?

Imm/ARI (Immunization/Adverse Reaction to Immunization) is Alberta's provincial immunization repository and is the system Alberta uses to record and track immunizations and any associated adverse reactions. Submitting to Imm/ARI ensures that a patient's immunization history is up to date in their provincial health record and can be accessed by authorized providers across the health system.

What is the difference between RTI/PIN and RTI/ImmARI?

RTI/PIN – Pharmaceutical Information Network

- **Add** and update patient medication information in the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) directly from your pharmacy system.
- **View** dispenses from other pharmacies within your own pharmacy vendor system.

- **Submit** dispenses to PIN in real time, eliminating manual uploads or overnight batch processes.

- **Provide** immediate medication history to authorized health-care providers across the province.

- **Access** the Provincial Client Registry (PCR) for quick patient setup and PHN verification.

- **Confirm** eligibility for provincially funded programs (e.g., influenza vaccination).

- **View** medications (including Schedule 2 drugs) and pharmacy visits to support safe and informed patient care.

RTI/ImmARI - Immunization Adverse Reaction to Immunization

- **Submit** immunization records directly from your pharmacy system to Imm/ARI in near real time, eliminating the need to use IDSM or rely on Alberta Blue Cross for reporting. Current billing/ claim submissions remain unchanged.

- **Make** immunization records available to other care providers almost immediately, supporting continuity of care across the province.

- **Add** new patients efficiently by retrieving demographic information from the Provincial Client Registry (PCR), reducing manual entry and minimizing documentation errors.

- **Verify** PHNs and check eligibility for Alberta government-funded immunization programs (such as influenza), helping ensure accurate billing and appropriate vaccine provision.

- **Access** provincial immunization history directly within your pharmacy system, reducing the need to search multiple platforms and supporting safe, informed immunization decisions.

How do I know what type of RTI I have?

If you currently use RTI to submit dispenses to PIN, you have RTI/PIN. If you are using IDSM to submit immunizations, you do not have RTI/ImmARI.

To confirm this or ask questions about your site contact eHealth Services Provider Support at 1-855-643-8649 or eHealthProviderSupport@gov.ab.ca (8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday).

What do I need to think about for Privacy and Security compliance?

Privacy Requirements
Pharmacies must ensure their privacy documentation reflects the use of RTI/ImmARI. Two types of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) may apply, and each serves a different purpose:

1. **Existing EMR/Pharmacy PIA**
   This is the pharmacy's full PIA that describes its information systems, workflows, and routine collection, use, and disclosure of health information.

   - This PIA must be updated to include Imm/ARI as part of the pharmacy's health information systems.

   - There is no set deadline for submitting this update; however, it must accurately reflect the pharmacy's operations once RTI/ImmARI is implemented.

2. **Expedited PIA (Template available)**
   This is a short, standardized PIA required specifically for enabling RTI/ImmARI connectivity.
   It must be completed before a pharmacy goes live with RTI/ImmARI.

   - It functions as a bridge approval: it allows the pharmacy to use RTI functionality while the full PIA update is being completed.

   - Using RTI/ImmARI without this Expedited PIA in place would put the pharmacy offside privacy legislation.

How the Timelines Work Together

Because a pharmacy cannot activate RTI/ImmARI without a valid expedited PIA, the timing of the expediated PIA process aligns with the pharmacy's RTI go-live date. Once live, the pharmacy must ensure its full PIA is updated to reflect Imm/ARI and its RTI workflows as soon as possible.

If you have not submitted an RTI PIA or have questions, contact eHealth Services Provider Support at 1-855-643-8649 or eHealthProviderSupport@gov.ab.ca (8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday).

Next Steps to Consider

- Confirm whether your pharmacy has RTI/PIN, RTI/ImmARI, or both.
- Contact your pharmacy system vendor about RTI/ImmARI readiness.
- Review your Privacy & Security readiness.
- Reach out to eHealth Services to ask questions and discuss. Ensure you have the information you need to make informed decisions. eHealth Services Provider Support at **1-855-643-8649** or eHealthProviderSupport@gov.ab.ca (8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday).