Privacy Options

Certain information about all filled prescriptions is collected in PIP. While there are many benefits to the Pharmaceutical Information Program, some people may not be comfortable with the electronic sharing of their prescription information. A "masking" option is available to people who want to restrict access to their prescription information.

Once a profile has been masked, health care providers will only be able to see your drug profile information in three circumstances:

With Consent
At any time, you may give any health care provider consent to view your masked medication profile. This authorization can be indefinite or time-limited (a specified number of days or months).

In an Emergency
Health care providers need to be able to view your drug history in an emergency, for example, if you are unconscious or unable to provide consent due to your illness. This information could be life saving.

Potentially Dangerous Use of Prescription Drugs
A list of potentially dangerous drugs has been developed in consultation with the regulatory bodies that license physicians and pharmacists. Examples of these drugs include narcotics and sleeping pills. Health care providers may unmask a profile when considering prescribing or dispensing one of these drugs because there is potential for harm if these drugs are used inappropriately. A complete list of these medications is available at www.health.gov. sk.ca/pip-drug-list.

If you would like to learn more about masking or any other privacy issue, call the eHealth Privacy Service at 1-800-667-1672. A downloadable *Request to Mask* form is available at www. health.gov.sk.ca/pip.

Other privacy options include:

Access Report
At any time, you may request a report detailing if and when your medication profile has been viewed. If you would like to obtain an access report, call the eHealth Privacy Service at 1-800-667-1672, or download a *Request for Access* form from www.health.gov.sk.ca/pip.

PIP e-prescribing
If your health care provider is using e-prescribing, you can opt out of having electronic prescriptions, allergies, and/or other notes about your prescriptions entered in PIP e-prescribing. Ask your physician or other health care provider not to add your information to PIP.

Questions

If you have questions about the Pharmaceutical Information Program, or would like a record of your prescription history, please contact:

eHealth Saskatchewan
Suite 360, 10 Research Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 7J7

In Regina: 787-8963
In Saskatchewan: 1-800-667-1672
Fax: (306)787-9487
www.health.gov.sk.ca
privacyandaccess@ehealthsask.ca

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

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THE PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

What is the Pharmaceutical Information Program?

The **Pharmaceutical Information Program** (PIP) is offered by the Ministry of Health as part of the Electronic Health Record initiative. PIP is a secure, web-based computer application that provides authorized users with fast, confidential access to accurate medication histories of Saskatchewan patients.

PIP assists health care providers in making optimal drug therapy decisions to improve the quality, safety and management of your health care.

What information is collected and how?

The *Medication Profile Viewer* contains information about you and your prescriptions, such as:

- The information you provide when you visit your doctor or pharmacist, such as Health Services card number, name, address, and date of birth.

- Certain information about your prescriptions, including the date dispensed, the drug, the quantity of drug, the prescriber, and the pharmacy. This information is collected under the authority of *The Prescription Drugs Act*.

Initially, PIP will use prescription information from the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. Your prescription information has been collected to:

- Determine your eligibility for benefits as a record of payments made by the Drug Plan.

- Build a more complete record of your prescriptions to help health professionals make more informed drug therapy decisions.

E-prescribing will allow prescribers to enter prescriptions as well as allergy information and information on other prescriptions that may not have been captured through the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. This will ensure health care providers have the most accurate and up-to-date information possible when making your drug therapy decisions.

Benefits of PIP

The Pharmaceutical Information Program will be available to authorized users in three phases, with different benefits for each phase.

1. The Medication Profile Viewer (MPV) has been available since October 2005. The MPV:

- Allows health care providers to see current and past prescriptions you have had dispensed at community-based pharmacies.

- Helps medical professionals select the best medication while avoiding drug interactions and duplications of therapy.

- Helps health professionals sort through the numerous medications you may be taking when treating medical conditions or where several prescribers are involved in your care.

2. The electronic-prescribing phase (e-prescribing) has been available since April 2007 and will include the same benefits as the MPV, as well as:

- Allowing qualified prescribers to enter your prescriptions directly into PIP.

- Create a clear printout of the prescription for you to have filled at a community pharmacy.

- Allowing health care providers to enter your drug and non-drug allergy information.

- Performing automatic drug-to-drug and

drug-to-allergy interaction checks before the prescription is filled. This improves your safety, especially if you require multiple medications or have drug allergies.

3. The third phase of PIP is the integration with other health care information systems, which will make the information more accessible to hospitals, pharmacies and physician clinics.

Safeguarding Your Information

Your personal health information is confidential and only authorized health care providers and approved members of their staff may view it when involved in your care. These authorized health care providers include pharmacists, physicians, nurses, dentists and optometrists and the authorized staff members may include your physician's office assistant, pharmacist assistant and clerks at hospitals.

The Ministry of Health takes great care to protect the personal health information under its control. Information is kept in strict confidence and is used or disclosed only as authorized or required by law. Privacy safeguards outlined in *The Health Information Protection Act* apply to the Pharmaceutical Information Program.

Safeguards are in place to ensure only authorized individuals involved in your care view your personal health information in PIP.

- All PIP users are made aware of their responsibilities. They agree to maintain the confidentiality of information and use it only on a need-to-know basis.

- High-quality network security is in place and all electronic messages are encrypted.

- All accesses to your medication profile are tracked and recorded and are available to you upon request.