



April 9, 2020

Dear colleagues,

RE: Provisional PIP Registration Process

For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic eHealth Saskatchewan approved a provisional process for members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) to be able to complete a truncated application and expedited approval process for the use of the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP). PIP gives healthcare practitioners secure online access to the information they need to make the best drug therapy decisions for their patients, prevent drug abuse and misuse, and provides a safe and secure electronic prescription platform.

What does this mean?

- Prescriptions can be done electronically, without access to an established EMR,
- No application needs to be installed, PIP is a standalone online platform compatible with most internet browsers,
- Electronic prescriptions in the PIP will be available at ANY pharmacy within Saskatchewan for the patient and ALL pharmacists licensed in Saskatchewan will have access,
- No faxes or written prescriptions or calls to pharmacists needed, you only need to inform the patient to contact the pharmacy of their choice (encourage patients to do this by phone) and tell them the prescription is on PIP,
- Electronic prescriptions recorded in the PIP do not require a physician's signature,
- No need to register or enter patients, you have access to the demographics and medication profiles for all Saskatchewan residents (You are expected and accountable to ONLY access the patients who you are providing care to),
- You can enter/have access to recorded allergy/intolerances to medications,
- You will have access to the patient's full active medication and prescription profile,
- The last 25 months of medication filled and dispensed at a pharmacy is included in a PIP Profile,
- PIP will run a medication interaction program when you prescribe any drug, please refer to the training module "How to Create and Renew Simple Prescriptions (05:43)" for managing contraindications,
- Once the pandemic order is no longer in effect, a transitional plan will be communicated to the physicians who have used the provisional process for PIP registration,
- Duplication of scripts, "double doctoring" and possible misuse/abuse/diversion of scheduled drugs can be avoided.

Who would benefit from this?

- All physicians, particularly physicians practicing from locations other than their offices during the pandemic,
- Physicians who do not use/have access to an EMR,
- Physicians in expanded roles for virtual care of Covid patients,
- Physicians who do not have access to a fax machine at home to transmit a prescription, or whose EMR does not have the direct fax module access, or who does not want to spend additional time phoning pharmacists,
- All physicians still utilizing paper prescriptions, regardless of location (hospitals, offices/care homes etc.)

What is the process?

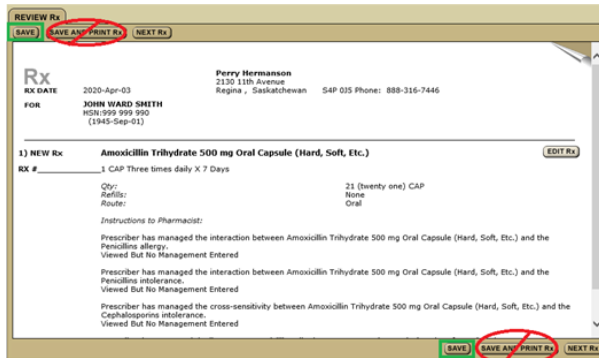
- Please see the attached User Guide – Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) for Electronic Prescribing
- The application process is much shorter since eHealth has limited this to Physicians licensed with the CPSS and does not include their usual clinic/organization
- The videos and the application process may be worked through in 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the physician’s understanding and skill with the program,
- eHealth dedicated an expedited process for application and activation.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan strongly recommends that all physicians receiving access to the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) under the current provisional registration process review the provided PIP training videos in the attached User Guide. All users are reminded to limit patient searches in the PIP to only those patients that are currently being provided direct patient care.

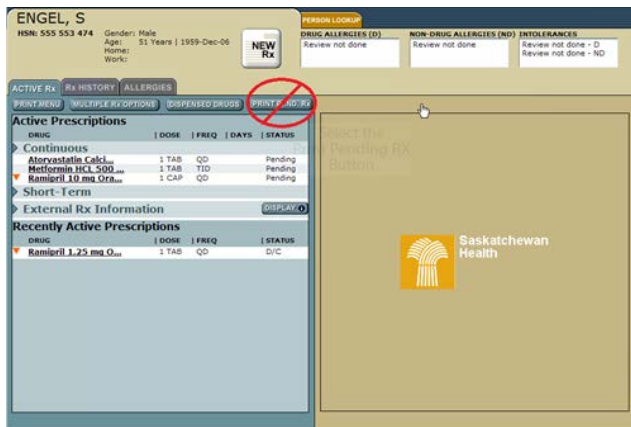
Even though the process is truncated for the purpose of effective service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, the principles, policies, and expectation for the use of this program and the CPSS [Guideline – Confidentiality of Patient Information](#) apply.

When using PIP for e-prescribing, an important part to be aware of:

DO NOT USE “save and print” option after creating an e-prescription. This will impact your patient’s ability to get the prescription printed and filled at the dispensing pharmacy (the prescription is only able to be printed once for security reasons). Therefore, only use the “save” option after creating an e-prescription.



Similarly, DO NOT print pending Rx for the prescriptions you have created on the PIP:



Useful Links:

[SMA: Pharmaceutical Information Program \(PIP\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[eHealth Saskatchewan: Pharmaceutical Information Program \(PIP\)](#)

[Saskatchewan Ministry of Health: Pharmaceutical Information Program](#)

For assistance registering for PIP: Contact Access Management Services at eHealth

Email: ams@ehealthsask.ca

For other information or assistance regarding PIP: Contact the Service Desk

Toll Free: 1-888-316-7446

Fax: 1-306-781-8480

Email: servicedesk@eHealthSask.ca

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all physicians doing their best for our patients in this time of uncertainty.



Sincerely,

A simple, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a few connected strokes.

Dr. Werner Oberholzer

Deputy Registrar | Werner.oberholzer@cps.sk.ca | CPSS direct line: 1 306 667 4648

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