

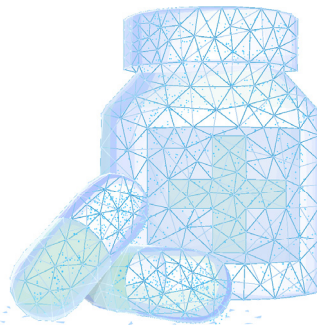
Medication Incidents

Why regular reporting is key to prevention

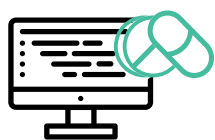


Medication incidents and near miss-events occur every day in pharmacies and healthcare settings in Canada and around the world. The impact they have on patients can be devastating.

1.5 million medication errors occur every year in the United States, contributing to approximately **98,000** deaths¹



Medication incidents contribute to approximately **28,000** deaths annually in Canada²



Only **25%** of Canadian pharmacies are regularly reporting — this averages to **3** reports/year/pharmacy³

Incorrect drug is the most common medication incident type reported⁴

The 5 top medications reported in medication incidents from Canadian Community pharmacies in 2021 were: Methadone, Oxycocet, Hydromorphone, COVID-19 vaccines, Furosemide⁵

Consistent reporting is essential to preventing medication errors and near-miss events.

When should you report a near miss:

- ✦ Were it to reach the patient, it may cause harm
- ✦ It has been a recurrent issue in the pharmacy
- ✦ It provides a learning opportunity for the particular pharmacy or for pharmacy practice in general
- ✦ Reporting aligns with the guidance set out by the PRA (provincial regulatory authority) in that province/territory



3 Things Every Medication Error Report Should Include: **WHAT, WHEN, WHY**

What went wrong?

Was the error or near-miss due to an incorrect patient, drug directions or packaging?

When did the error occur?

Did the error happen at the prescribing stage, during data entry, or at the delivery stage?

Why did it happen?

Did the incident occur due to missing critical information, the presence of look-alike or sound-alike drugs, or pharmacy processes not being followed?

(1) Continuous Quality Improvement regulations for community pharmacy in the United States (2) Canadian Patient Safety Institute (3) NAPRA (4) (5)Pharmapod