

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Managers and Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** August 22, 2019  
**Re:** Clarified Reporting Requirements in *Standards of Practice: Continuous Quality Assurance*

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The NSCP Council has clarified key reporting requirements in the *Standards of Practice: Continuous Quality Assurance Programs in Community Pharmacies*. In light of multiple vendors that offer medication incident reporting services now operating within the Canadian marketplace, these revisions provide clarity regarding the foundational principles of:

- the population of a national aggregate database
- anonymous reporting

The Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System (CMIRPS) is the national medication incident reporting and prevention system, funded by Health Canada and supported by key national stakeholders, that supports shared learning across professions, jurisdictions, and all levels of care. To enable ongoing learning and sharing from reported quality related events in Nova Scotia and across Canada, **the Standards now clarify that reporting must be to a database that contributes to the CMIRPS National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies**. This clarification means that **pharmacy managers must confirm that the medication incident reporting tool used by the pharmacy submits its data to CMIRPS**.

The NSCP Council recognizes the importance of:

- greater reporting efficiency for pharmacy practitioners;
- ongoing innovation in medication incident reporting software available; and
- balancing anonymity with individual practitioner choice.

To this end, the Standards now clarify that while reporting quality related events is mandatory, practitioners can choose whether to do this anonymously. Please note that while pharmacy owners may have in-house reporting and risk management software that requires identification of the reporter and the prescription involved, **pharmacy practitioners must continue to have the option to report all QREs anonymously to CMIRPS**.

As new providers of medication error reporting and learning services emerge, the NSCP will continue to work with all stakeholders to serve the best interest of patient safety while acknowledging and supporting the value of competition in the marketplace.