

Important notice for physicians, nurses, pharmacists & other healthcare professionals

Any Person • Any Drug • Any Time

What's new?

On May 4, 2015, healthcare professionals at Northern Health will be able to report Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) in BC Patient Safety & Learning System (BC PSLs).

What is an ADR?

An undesirable or unexpected response to any medication, including vaccines. ALL people are susceptible to experiencing an ADR.

ADRs are not the same as Medication Events: An ADR is an undesirable unexpected outcome that happens while a patient is taking a medication, vaccine or contrast media despite being administered as intended. *For example,* a patient has a serious bleed suspected to be related to taking a medication. A **Medication Event** is a problem, often involving an error or system breakdown, where the medication was not used or administered as intended. *For example,* a patient receives an unintended double dose of a medication in error.

How do I report an ADR?

Go to the **BC PSLs Landing Page** and look for the **purple maple leaf ADR icon**:



Adverse Drug Reaction

Handler Login

BCPSLS

Report an Event

Click on the icon that describes the event. Don't see what you need? Click on 'All Other Patient Safety Events'

northern health
Return to HA page

Why is reporting an ADR important?

To improve safety for everyone! Our goal is to protect patients, clients, residents and others from undue harm and quickly learn more about new, rare or serious ADRs so similar situations can be prevented from happening again in BC, and elsewhere in Canada.

- ✓ Data collected in BC PSLs will be analyzed by **Health Canada's Vigilance Program** who may issue public warnings, direct label changes or remove harmful medications from the market to ensure all patients have access to safe medications.
- ✓ New legislation to protect Canadians from unsafe drugs called **Bill C-17 (Vanessa's Law)** received Royal Assent in November 2014 and requires healthcare organizations to report serious ADRs.
- ✓ The new ADR reporting process aligns with **Accreditation Canada's Medication Management Standards**, a collaborative approach to ADR reporting across the country to improve safety for all Canadians.

Where can I find more information?

If you have questions or need help, please contact **Arlene Crawford** arlene.crawford@northernhealth.ca or **Shawn Smith** shawn.smith@northernhealth.ca, or refer to the following websites: [Canada Vigilance Program](#), [Canada Vigilance Adverse Reaction Reporting Form](#), [New standards for hospitals on reporting adverse drug reactions](#), [Protecting Canadians from Unsafe Drugs Act \(Vanessa's Law\)](#)