

PrescribelIT™

CANADA'S ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

BACKGROUND

Canada Health Infoway is working with Health Canada, the provinces and territories, and industry stakeholders to create, operate and maintain a financially self-sustaining, multi-jurisdiction e-prescribing service, known as **PrescribelIT™**. This will be a single service that can be scaled for use across the country enabling prescribers to electronically transmit a prescription to a patient's pharmacy of choice.

What will PrescribelIT™ do?

The service will provide safer and more effective medication management by connecting community-based prescribers (such as physicians and nurse practitioners) either through their existing electronic medical records (EMR) or standalone applications, to community retail pharmacies to enable the electronic transmission of prescriptions.



There will be three options available to patients as PrescribelIT™ is deployed:

Directed: If the patient specifies a pharmacy of choice at the time of prescribing, the electronic prescription will be securely delivered directly to that pharmacy using the PrescribelIT™ service.

Deferred: If the patient does not specify a pharmacy, the prescriber can send the prescription electronically to the PrescribelIT™ Service. From there, a pharmacy participating in PrescribelIT™ can retrieve it when the patient presents the prescription summary they have received from the prescriber.

Paper: Paper prescription may be requested by the patient and issued by the prescriber.

PrescribelIT™ will serve all patients, pharmacies and prescribers and will:

- **Ensure patient choice** of pharmacy
- **Safeguard patient health data** from commercial use
- Maintain an influence-free prescribing and dispensing environment
- **Continue to be accountable to Canadians** through their federal, provincial and territorial governments

In its initial release, the following features will be offered:

- **Secure electronic transmission of prescriptions for all medications, including narcotics:**
 - Deliver a prescription to a patient's pharmacy of choice
 - Send prescription renewal requests from a pharmacist to prescriber
 - Cancel a transaction by the prescriber or pharmacist
- **Prescriber access to integrated public drug formulary** to help confirm relative costs and coverage
- **Secure messaging between prescribers and pharmacists** to eliminate fax and phone activity

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- **Integration with provincial/territorial drug information systems** to contribute to secure patient medication histories.

Additional functionality will be added over time based on participant demand and preference.

Benefits of PrescribeIT™:

- **Improve patient safety** and continuity of care
- Ensure **greater accuracy and fewer errors** in filling prescriptions
- Allow **safer drug use and compliance** for better health outcomes
- **Optimize existing jurisdictional investment** in their drug information system
- **Reduce fraud and abuse, such as narcotics**, through better information at the point of care

All on Board

We are passionate about redefining how health care is delivered. And that means working together to provide health care providers with the tools they need to help Canadians achieve optimal health results and protect the long-term sustainability of our health care system.

Limited production releases (or trial runs of the technology) of PrescribeIT™ will be rolled out first in Alberta and Ontario starting in mid-2017 and we expect the service will be available for wider rollout in other provinces and territories starting in mid-2018.

Why Now?

Canada's health system is under significant pressures that increasingly threaten its ability to provide high-quality, universal care for all Canadians:

- Medication is now the second largest area of health care spending in Canada (after hospitals), almost doubling as a share of total health expenditures from 8.8 to 15.8 per cent over the last 40 years.
- As Canada's population ages, there will be an increase number of seniors living with multiple chronic conditions who will require safe and reliable use of prescription drugs to avoid costly interactions with the health care system.
- There is no existing national system that enables monitoring of controlled substances or other prescription drugs at the point of prescribing, or generates analytics to identify health system trends and inform future health policy decisions.

By reducing the use of paper prescriptions, PrescribeIT™ will strengthen medication management, enhance patient safety, optimize existing drug information system investments and facilitate better health outcomes.

To learn more about PrescribeIT™:

PrescribeIT@Infoway-Inforoute.ca

www.Infoway-Inforoute.ca/PrescribeIT