

Prescriptive Authority for Saskatchewan Pharmacists

Update #7 – February 24, 2011

Prescribing Privileges in the Pharmaceutical Information Program

Recent information from PIP indicates that approximately 600 out of 1,285 licensed pharmacists in the province have prescribing privileges in PIP. This is mostly due to pharmacists who have requested this status to prescribe emergency contraception. Hence, those of you who have privileges to prescribe emergency contraception will also have prescriber status in PIP for prescriptive authority that comes into force on March 4, 2011. This means that a lot of you do not have this status and will not be able to prescribe in community pharmacy practice. Thus we encourage you to obtain this status as soon as possible because prescribing is expected as part of your scope of practice.

Members who have these privileges have the “New Rx” button accessible to you when you are in the PIP Viewer. Otherwise, the button will have the “Red circle with the line across” signifying that you are not able to use this feature. For those of you not able to use this feature the onus is on your pharmacy manager or “approver” to initiate the request according to the following instructions provided by the PIP Team:

GETTING SET UP AS A PRESCRIBER ON PIP

Once Level 1 training is complete, a pharmacist must be set up as a prescriber in each location they practice. The pharmacy manager or “approver” of each location should initiate this request by contacting the Health Information Solutions Centre (HISC).

- HISC Service Desk:
 - Toll free: 1-888-316-7446
 - Local: (306)337-0600
 - Fax: (306)781-8480
 - E-mail: hiscservicedesk@health.gov.sk.ca

The Help Desk is ready for the calls, as well as the Transition and Change Management (TCM) team who deal with providing the privileges as requested. The Help Desk will produce a call ticket & pass it on to the TCM team. The team will verify that the user has an active PIP account and that otherwise everything else is in order. Typically, the turnaround time has been 1 day (except for weekends), if everything is in order. If there is not an active PIP account, or other questions, it may take longer. The Approver will be contacted via e-mail, with notification that the privileges have been changed as requested. With the anticipated number of calls, the turnaround time may be longer, but we are assured that this process is a priority.

Thank you for your attention to this important requirement.