

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: July 25, 2022
Re: Hospital Dispensed Medications in NS DIS

Until recently, outpatient medications dispensed by hospital pharmacies were not entered into the Nova Scotia Drug Information System (NS DIS). This has now changed.

This change means hospital dispensed medications may now be included in the DIS Drug Use Review (DUR) process and may trigger drug interaction or other warnings. Many of these hospital medications are being used in clinically significant drug regimens for cancer, HIV, anti-rejection for organ transplant, and schizophrenia.

What this means for your practice:

1. **Hospital dispensed medications MAY NOT be readily apparent in the patient's NS DIS profile** as they are entered into NS DIS differently than when entered by community pharmacies. Depending upon the pharmacy software system used, they may appear as "not dispensed", "posted", or as "other medications" and may also NOT appear in the default profile view. **Pharmacy practitioners need to know how to query their specific software system so that they can appropriately identify and address warnings flagged by the NS DIS.** Practitioners who are unsure of how to do this should contact their software support.
 - Kroll: these medications may appear as "other medication" and be categorized as "not dispensed". Users may need to query the Advanced Profile (rather than the default Comprehensive Profile) to ensure that profile items that have aged beyond 45 days are included.
 - Shoppers Drug Mart Healthwatch: these medications may appear as "posted" and may require a Full Profile query.
 - McKesson Pharmaclik Rx: the user may be required to filter for "other medications" or "all" to see these medications.
2. DUR messages may flag concurrent long-standing therapy on which the patient is stable. This will require exploration to confirm and may require intervention.
3. There are still instances where medications will not be in a patient's NS DIS record. It is imperative that pharmacy practitioners continue to routinely ask patients about other medications so that their profile can be updated. If a patient is taking a medication that is not already part of their NS DIS profile, it should be added, taking care to ensure that the correct formulation and dose is entered. (Note: some patients may have a printout of the medications dispensed by the hospital that they can share with you).