

Yukon pharmacists welcome new DIS

Written by Sonya Felix on July 18, 2016 for CanadianHealthcareNetwork.ca

System expected to help prevent drug abuse, fraud.

A new drug information system (DIS) is one aspect of a \$10 million project in the Yukon that is digitizing medical records.

Once implemented in six months or so, the DIS will provide a complete list of medications and prescriptions a patient has received, even if filled at in different pharmacies.

The ability to track prescriptions through electronic records is good news, Josianne Gauthier, president of the Yukon Pharmacists Association, told CBC News. In particular, Gauthier pointed out that pharmacists' ability to see what medications had been filled at other drug stores could help prevent drug abuse and fraud.

The new system could also prevent unintended mixing of drugs, Gauthier said, adding that this could be an issue, for example, if an unconscious patient arrives in hospital in the middle of the night. With the DIS available online 24/7, health providers can readily see all the prescriptions without having to make phone calls or send faxes.

Other parts of the digital initiative such as laboratory results are already in use.

The DIS, funded largely through Canada Health Infoways, is promised for launch in December 2016 with wider use expected by spring 2017.
