National System for Incident Reporting:
Program Overview

Canadian Institute
for Health Information

Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

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NSIR at a Glance

> A new patient safety initiative launched by CIHI in April 2010

> A voluntary reporting system designed to facilitate sharing and learning from medication incidents

> Program Objectives:

  – To enable system-wide and local solutions to medication incidents

  – To give risk managers on the front-lines the tools, access and knowledge to implement local solutions

  – To develop partnerships that create and disseminate strategies, recommendations and solutions

NSIR Attributes

> **Web-based application**

  – Requires only internet access; no software to purchase or install

  – Complements existing risk management systems

> **Simplified data submission**

  – Only 10 mandatory data elements (23 optional)

  – Data submitted via web-based data entry screens or batch upload

> **Standardized drug product list**

  – More than 6,000 products listed by both brand and generic names

> **Integrated Tools**

  – MicroStrategy™ query tool enables learning and analysis

  – Communication Tool facilitates anonymous discussion within the application

Key Features

> **Minimal financial investment required**

– System is built, tested and launched

– No cost for facilities to register

– CIHI trains staff to submit and analyze data

– Implementation can begin with a single ward/unit

> **Multiple data views**

– Participants have identifiable access to their own data and de-identified access to data from other facilities

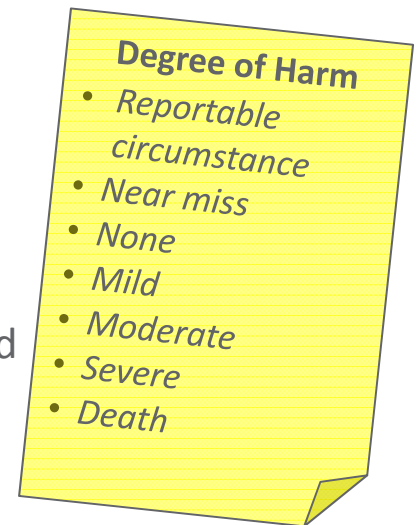– Allows provincial, regional, corporation, site-level and peer group views

> **Modular design**

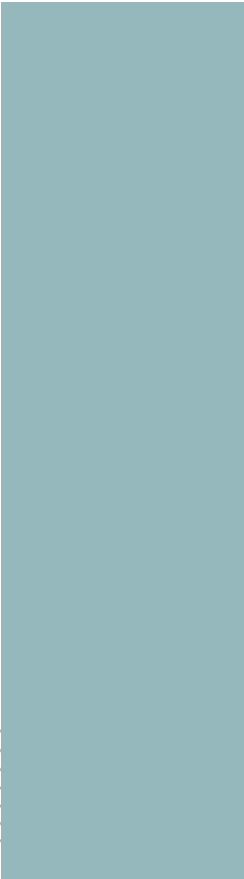– Supports expansion beyond medication incidents and beyond acute care sector

Data Collection

> Most data elements are codified to facilitate analysis; text fields for event description and preventative strategies

> Six data domains:

- **Incident Impact**: degree of harm to the patient

- **Incident Discovery**: who, when and where

- **Patient Characteristics**: age and sex

- **Medication Incident Details**: medication/IV fluid problem and process, contributing factors

- **Drug Product Information**: drug name, strength, dosage form

- **Investigation and Findings**: results of the investigation, lessons learned

Degree of Harm
- *Reportable circumstance*
- *Near miss*
- *None*
- *Mild*
- *Moderate*
- *Severe*
- *Death*

Analytic Capabilities

> **MicroStrategy™ query tool simplifies data analysis**

   – Customizable canned reports and templates for users

   – 'Drill-down' function moves users from aggregate totals to individual records

> **Comparison Reports**

   – Compare query results across the units of a hospital, between campuses of a multi-site hospital or between multiple hospitals

   – Peer groups enable comparisons to facilities outside the region

> **Link to Communication Tool**

   – Individual records include a hyperlink to the communication tool, where users can send a non-identifying e-mail to the submitting facility

NSIR Information

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