



British Columbia Telehealth Pharmacists Electronic Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting to Health Canada

Ginson Duke S, Newman P, Dhaliwall S, McDonald K
Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions



Background

- Only 6% of adverse drug reactions (ADR) are reported¹
- ADR data supports Health Canada by strengthening its knowledge base on product safety in the interest of improving patient outcomes and public health: in product regulation, advisories and safer medication use for Canadians
- Health Canada defines an ADR as a noxious and unintended effect to a health product³
- Health products are prescription medications, over the counter treatments, natural products and vaccines³
- Section 12(7) of the British Columbia Health Professions Act Bylaws Schedule F, Part 1
"If an ADR as defined by Health Canada is identified, the full pharmacist must notify the patient's practitioner, make an appropriate entry on the PharmaNet record and report the reaction to the appropriate department of Health Canada"⁵
- Telehealth pharmacists are uniquely positioned to recognize and report ADRs

¹ Hazell, et al. Drug Safety 2006
² https://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/toolsResources/Vanessas-Law/Documents/Module%201_Overview_VanessaLaw_ADR_MDI_Reporting_25Mar2019.pdf
³ www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/reports-publications/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting-health-product-safety-information-guide-health-professionals-health-canada-2011.html
⁴ http://library.bcparmacists.org/6_Resources/6-1_Provincial_Legislation/5078-HPA_Bylaws_Community.pdf

Study

Primary Objective:

To determine the number of ADR reports electronically submitted to Health Canada by the British Columbia (BC) telehealth pharmacist team for the years 2015 to 2017

Secondary Objectives:

1. Determine the proportion of BC telepharmacist ADR reports to:
 - i) All BC pharmacists
 - ii) All Canadian Pharmacists
2. Describe barriers to telehealth pharmacist ADR reporting

Action

- Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions (NTS) BC telehealth pharmacists underwent training with Canada Vigilance BC Regional Office in 2013
- BC Telehealth pharmacists (18) identified ADRs while providing consultations via the Health Advice line 1700H to 0900H 365 days of the year. ADRs were reported via Health Canada website
- Data collected: pharmacist name, date of report, suspected drug, ADR, and an identifier code for all corresponding call documentation
- Excel spreadsheets were used for data collection and analysis.
- Canada Vigilance BC provided Canadian and Provincial ADR reporting data
- In 2018, the telehealth pharmacist team completed a brief anonymous on-line survey regarding factors that may be barriers to ADR reporting

Disclosure Summary

Ginson Duke S. Employed by Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions
 Newman P. Employed by Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions
 Dhaliwall S. Employed by Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions
 McDonald K. Director, Northwest Telepharmacy Solutions



2,110
 NTS BC Telehealth Pharmacist ADR reports in 3 years

26%
 of all Canadian Pharmacist ADR reports to Health Canada were done by NTS BC Telehealth Pharmacists

73%
 of all BC Pharmacist ADR reports to Health Canada were done by NTS BC Telehealth Pharmacists

75% of NTS BC Telehealth Pharmacists report ADRs routinely

Results

Figure 1: Proportion of ADRs Reported By Pharmacists in Canada

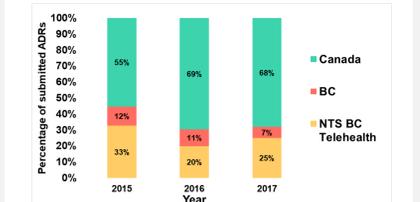
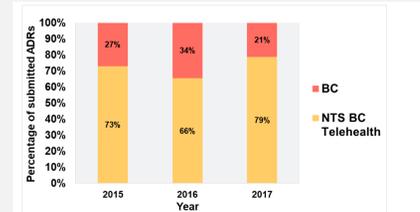


Figure 2: Proportion of ADRs Reported By Pharmacists in British Columbia (BC)



Figures 3 and 4: NTS BC Telehealth Pharmacist Survey (n=12)

Figure 3

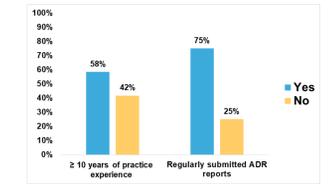
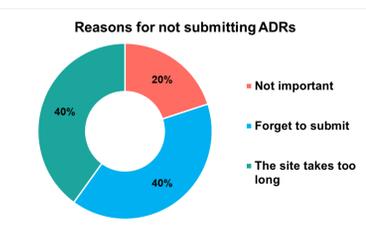


Figure 4



Vanessa's Law



Protecting Canadians from Unsafe Drugs Act
 Vanessa died at 15 years of age of a cardiac arrhythmia due to an ADR

Mandatory Reporting of Serious ADRs and Medical Device Incidents by Hospitals December 2019

www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca

Implications for ADR Reporting

- Taking appropriate action when a risk to patient health is identified
- Promoting greater confidence in the oversight of therapeutic products by increasing transparency
- Pharmacists can leverage human resources (student pharmacists and pharmacy technicians), and technology (on-line reporting portals to increase ADR reporting)

