

Implementation of PrescribeIT®

The Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI have been working with Canada Health Infoway on a national initiative regarding the electronic delivery of prescriptions called PrescribeIT®. This service will contribute to effective medication management by enabling prescribers to transmit a prescription electronically between a prescriber's electronic medical record (EMR) and the pharmacy management system of a patient's pharmacy of choice.

PrescribeIT will be rolled out in 2 Phases:

Phase 1: During the initial phase in late 2022, participating prescribers on the Provincial EMR (CHR) will be able to:

1. Send electronic prescriptions to the pharmacy (instead of faxing)

Pilots: PEI will pilot PrescribeIT® this Fall (in select Clinics/Pharmacies). A broader implementation plan will be developed based on feedback from the pilot sites.

Phase 2: Further functionality is targeted for 2023 and will include the ability to:

1. Receive and respond to a pharmacy-initiated e-renewal request from the pharmacy
2. Send and receive communications securely using the clinical communications tool
3. Initiate a cancel e-prescription request and receive responses to and from the Pharmacy
4. Receive dispense and dispense cancel notifications

In preparation for PrescribeIT® the following will be implemented this fall:

1. Mandatory fields will become enabled for all CHR Users who are prescribing

- To ensure that prescriptions sent through PrescribeIT® are valid and will be accepted by pharmacies, the **Drug Name** and **Quantity** or **Duration** fields are mandatory. This aligns with information requirements outlined in the Prince Edward Island Pharmacy Act General Regulations for prescriptions. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/P%2606-1g-Pharmacy%20Act%20General%20Regulations.pdf>
 - a. Note: While PrescribeIT® will allow prescriptions to be sent using a duration (e.g., 30 days) instead of quantity (e.g., 30 tablet), this approach is not recommended in PEI as prescriptions written using a duration would not meet provincial regulations.
- For renewals, ensure these fields are populated prior to submission.
- This will also apply to non-medication prescriptions.
- ***To ease the transition, we strongly recommend you begin populating these fields now.***

2. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) will be implemented

- 2FA provides an additional security feature on top of usernames and passwords and is an effective approach to neutralize risks of compromised passwords or other cyber attacks. It is now viewed in many industries as a minimum standard for authentication, including medical.
- 2FA requires that all users identify themselves with a unique code when logging into the system. The 2FA will remain connected for up to 12 hours.
- If you are required to logout and log back in for any reason (e.g., if you work out of different practices) then you will be required to re-authenticate.

Further communications will be provided in advance of these changes being implemented.

What are the advantages of using PrescribeIT® for prescriptions?

Research has demonstrated that in countries where e-prescribing is available, patients may experience better health outcomes and enhanced safety. Other benefits include:

- Fewer medication-related errors
- Less risk of losing prescriptions
- Lower risk of privacy breaches due to fax transmission issues
- Less fraud and abuse of prescriptions
- Patient's pharmacy of choice assured

If you have further questions, please contact the EMR Program at emrprogram@gov.pe.ca