New Brunswick Drug Information System and Prescription Monitoring Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the New Brunswick Vision for One Patient, One Record (OPOR)?**
   The One Patient, One Record vision is for each person in New Brunswick to have a single up-to-date electronic health record with important health information and care history available to authorized clinicians when needed.

2. **What is the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR)?**
   The EHR is the electronic display of a person’s most up-to-date health record. Only authorized health professionals can access the EHR. The EHR includes patient specific information such as: lab results, diagnostic imaging reports, hospital visits and prescriptions filled at community pharmacies.

3. **What is the New Brunswick Drug Information System (DIS)?**
   The New Brunswick Drug Information System is part of the EHR. It is a province-wide system that will, over time, contain a comprehensive medication history for patients who have a prescription filled in a community pharmacy in New Brunswick.
   The Drug Information System provides information to authorized healthcare professionals through the EHR to access the medication history. Having access to a medication history when and where it is needed will help clinicians make better decisions about patient care.

4. **Why do we need a provincial Drug Information System?**
   A provincial Drug Information System is needed so that authorized clinicians can access the medication history when they need it allowing them to make safer, more informed decisions about patient care.
   The Drug Information System is a secure and private system that only authorized clinicians can use to access patient medication histories. All authorized clinicians are subject to the provisions set out in the province’s *Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act* (PHIPAA).
5. **What are the benefits of NBDIS?**
   The Drug Information System will increase the quality and safety of patient care for all New Brunswickers and those who receive care here by:
   - Sharing electronic health information among authorized health care providers
   - Providing a comprehensive medication history (of filled prescriptions) for individual patients
   - Helping to prevent duplicate medications.

6. **What is the New Brunswick Prescription Monitoring Program (NB PMP)?**
   The NB PMP is a real-time electronic display within the EHR of all monitored drug prescriptions filled at community pharmacies. Monitored drugs include narcotic and controlled drugs such as Dilaudid, Percocet, and Ritalin. The PMP electronic display allows authorized prescribers and pharmacists to view a patient’s monitored drug prescriptions to help make safer, more informed decisions at the point of care.

   In addition, the NB PMP can trigger alerts in real-time for pharmacists filling prescriptions to help identify potential issues such as double-doctoring, prescriptions filled at multiple pharmacies, and high quantities of monitored drugs. The information from the PMP will also support monitoring drug prescribing and dispensing patterns in NB.

7. **Why do we need the NB PMP?**
   PMPs can help improve prescribing of narcotic and controlled substances, support ways to lower or prevent the harms related to these drugs, and can help identify patients who may be at risk of addiction. The NB PMP is not meant to prevent the use of monitored drugs for legitimate medical purposes. The real-time electronic PMP display will make it easier for prescribers and pharmacists to use a patient’s most up-to-date information to help make safer, more informed decisions related to monitored drugs.

   Canada is second only to the US as the largest per capita user of prescription narcotics such as Dilaudid and Percocet. In NB, the number of narcotic prescriptions and the number of patients needing methadone treatment for dependence have been rising.

8. **Is there legislation supporting the NB PMP?**
   Yes, the *Prescription Monitoring Act* and its *Regulation*. The legislation provides the authority to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of monitored drugs such as Dilaudid, Percocet, and Ritalin. It outlines the monitored drug information that pharmacies will be required to provide. It is expected that all community pharmacies in NB will be submitting information to the PMP by November 2016.