

Important information for community providers: Cancer Care medication information in Netcare consult letters

Key Messages:

- There has been a change in where you will find oncology medication information.
- Adult oncology medication information (both infusion and outpatient oral medication orders) is no longer available in the Pharmacy Information Network (PIN) within Netcare.
- Information for adult patients is in the oncology consult letters in Netcare (pediatric information remains in consult letters because it was never sent to PIN).
- This change is being made for safety reasons, because previously only some oncology medications were visible in PIN, while others (such as infusions) were not.

What do we need to do?

When you are looking for oncology medication information, look in the consult letters in Netcare. The oncology medications for adults that were previously found in PIN are now only in oncology consult letters in Netcare. There are no changes to viewing pediatric oncology medications. They continue to be available in the consult letters as before.

Why the change?

Inpatient and ambulatory oncology medications are now recorded and dispensed via Connect Care. So, if a physician looked in PIN, they might only see part of their patient's medication list and presume it's complete, which could result in patient safety concerns.

AHS has been working with Alberta Health to send ambulatory administered medications to PIN but this work is still ongoing.

Until this work is completed, all oncology medication information will be in consult letters in Netcare. This ensures physicians can view each patient's complete roster of oncology medications in one place, thus addressing patient safety concerns. Cancer Care Alberta (CCA) medical practice leaders were consulted and they recommended to only communicate oncology medication information in consult letters, rather than having only a portion sent to PIN.

How is AHS making sure you get the medication information you need?

AHS is working with oncologists, the Alberta College of Pharmacists and Alberta Health to ensure that oncology medication information in consult letters is standardized and includes current medication orders. These consult letters will be automatically sent to Netcare. AHS will monitor concerns from community providers and will work with all provider groups to ensure a smooth transition.

For more information, please contact: cancercareab@ahs.ca