



CIRCL Safety Self-Assessment Tools

Purpose

This Regulatory Statement sets out the College's position on safety self-assessment tools for the purposes of the College's new Continuous Improvement, Reporting, Collaborating, and Learning ("CIRCL") program.

Background

CIRCL is the College's comprehensive medication incident reporting program designed to enhance medication safety through structured reporting, analysis, and learning from medication incidents in pharmacies across British Columbia. The program's name represents its four foundational elements: Continuous Improvement, Reporting, Collaborating, and Learning, which together create a framework for preventing medication incidents and improving client care. CIRCL is embedded in the bylaws of the College under both the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* ("HPOA") and the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act* ("PODSA").

The Continuous Improvement element includes safety self-assessments at the individual pharmacy level. Starting June 1, 2026, the PODSA bylaws require each community pharmacy and hospital pharmacy to conduct periodic safety self-assessments.

For the purposes of CIRCL, a safety self-assessment is defined as being a process used regularly by pharmacy staff to proactively identify potential safety concerns, which may help decrease the number of medication incidents and near misses and identify opportunities for improvement at a pharmacy in order to mitigate risks to clients.

Section 24(12) of the PODSA bylaws requires pharmacies to complete safety self-assessments using a software tool or platform that is appropriate for the pharmacy's licence type and that has the necessary technical features and capabilities to consistently and reliably generate adequate safety self-assessments for the pharmacy. This applies equally to community pharmacies and hospital pharmacies.

Position

The College is aware of several platforms available in the Canadian marketplace that can currently meet the requirements of section 24(12) of the PODSA bylaws, including the following:

- The Medication Safety Self-Assessment solutions offered by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada.
- The Pharmacy Safety Self-Assessment tool within the Pharmapod software solution offered by Think Research Corporation.
- The OnboardQi platform offered by Accreditation Canada.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and the College does not approve or endorse individual tools or platforms. Pharmacy teams may use another, equivalent software tool or platform, provided that it meets the requirements specified in the College bylaws.

Pharmacy managers should consult with software providers regarding privacy compliance requirements for British Columbia, as appropriate platforms should have measures in place to protect personal and confidential information in accordance with applicable privacy legislation.

Legislation

- PODSA s. 21(1)
- PODSA bylaws s. 24, s. 29

Additional Information

n/a

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