

# Pharmacy Network News

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## Contact Us

To date, 71 pharmacies are connected to the Pharmacy Network.

If you are interested in connecting, please contact the Centre's Service Desk at:  
 752-6006  
 1-877-752-6006  
 service@nlchi.nl.ca

www.nlchi.nl.ca  
 Twitter: @NLCHItweets

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## Connecting From Day One

**Tony Smith**, pharmacist owner of **Avalon Drugs**, opened his new business in Bay Roberts on April 13, the same day he joined the Pharmacy Network. Connecting from day one gave Tony firsthand knowledge about the benefits and opportunities the Pharmacy Network offers.

"Joining the Pharmacy Network is a must and especially for anyone setting up a new pharmacy. The fact the system automatically populates patient profiles meant I could spend more time with my patients and meet new customers," says Tony. "I cannot imagine all the extra work manually inputting patient information. And my patients feel more comfortable with the process because I can obtain the information I need from the system without asking too many personal questions."

**"The Pharmacy Network today is so much easier, simplified and streamlined; that's it in a nutshell."** - Tony Smith

Tony has been a practicing pharmacist for 18 years. For 16 years he worked in community; five of those using the Pharmacy Network. Tony remembers his frustrations with the system in the beginning especially with the all the DURs. Today he says the system is easier and smoother, the number of DURs has decreased greatly, and overall he has witnessed only positive changes. "The Pharmacy Network today is so much easier, simplified and streamlined; that's it in a nutshell."

When Tony talks about the Pharmacy Network, he highlights some of the changes and benefits he has experienced, like its patient safety features. Being able to confirm the right patient receives the right medication, or having access to more information helps to ensure a patient isn't misusing or over-using opioids. He is also able to ease patient fears when patients transfer from another pharmacy or have a prescription filled elsewhere because information is available to confirm a prescription is correct. Tony also points to other examples - using the patient's MCP number to verify a NLPDP patient who forgets their drug card and worries their prescription won't be filled; having free access to e-therapeutics, an up-to-date drug information resource tool; the ability to verify physician information from the Provider Registry; and a simplified PIN list.

Tony refers to the Pharmacy Network as a "safety net." He recalls a story when he worked in community of a patient transferring from another pharmacy. The patient obtained all his prescriptions on **"There is a wealth of information available that's growing and it's going to get even better."** - Tony Smith  
 Network, Tony found some prescriptions had improper dosages. In fact Tony found four errors and called the physician to confirm the correct dosages. "I was able to view the patient profile, see the history and correct potential errors. There is a wealth of information available that's growing and it's going to get even better."

Connecting to the Pharmacy Network has been a very meaningful experience for **Tony Smith** and his patients. "I'm seeing all these benefits now and how it can help grow my business. I can only imagine how good the system will be when all pharmacies are connected and we have a more complete patient profile."

## PN Connection Update

Walmart plans to roll out version 10 of Kroll in May with connection to the Pharmacy Network to follow.

Downtown Pharmacy is tentatively booked to connect in May.

## Regional Health Authorities - Outpatient Dispensing Systems Update

Eastern Health is scheduled to connect in May followed by the other Regional Health Authorities. Once connected, the community pharmacy medication profiles will include medications being filled in acute care outpatient dispensing systems, improving patient care and patient safety.

## Pharmacy Network Stats

Over 12.6 million dispenses have been recorded on the Pharmacy Network.

As of March 31, 2015, the Pharmacy Network had more than 99,000 examples of patients visiting multiple pharmacies to receive health care for themselves and their families. This means that additional medication information was available to pharmacists and other health care professionals for decision-making, had it been required. The top 10 dispenses on the Pharmacy Network in March were:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Rosuvastatin Calcium | 6. Amoxicillin          |
| 2. Rabeprazole Sodium   | 7. Acetylsalicylic Acid |
| 3. Methadone HCL        | 8. Metformin HCL        |
| 4. Levothyroxine Sodium | 9. Atorvastatin Calcium |
| 5. Metoprolol Tartrate  | 10. Lorazepam           |

This top 10 list accounts for 59,263 dispenses of the 293,384 total dispenses for the month of March.

## Peer Leader News

The annual Pharmacy Peer Leader meeting took place April 10 at the Centre. The day included conversations about HEALTHe NL and its use in community pharmacies in the future, current change requests for the Pharmacy Network and planning for this fall's province-wide continuing education (CE) sessions.

Pharmacist Peer Leaders are a valuable resource group available FREE to you! To find a peer leader in your area, or if you have questions about the Pharmacy Network and how to connect, contact the Service Desk at 752-6006, 1-877-752-6006 or [service@nlchi.nl.ca](mailto:service@nlchi.nl.ca).

## Pharmacy Network Upgrade

The recent Pharmacy Network upgrade (2015.1) took place mid-April. The upgrade included two change requests that will provide reductions in the number of error messages returned to end users. These change requests should reduce drug identifier mismatch and unit of measure errors.

## HEALTHe NL Update - More Information Being Added

As of April 18, **625** health care professionals throughout the province have accessed HEALTHe NL to view a patient medication profile. In the coming weeks, more information including laboratory results will be available to connected pharmacies. Stay tuned to learn how you can access this additional labs information.