



Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act

On November 1, 2011, section 1-4 and 6-16 of the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act (NSAA)* came into effect. This legislation was introduced to support the development of a narcotics monitoring system, as part of the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's Narcotics Strategy. It allows the Ministry to collect, analyze and disclose personal health information that relates to all prescription narcotics and controlled substances dispensed to anyone in Ontario.

New Requirements for Physicians

The *NSAA* establishes new requirements for physicians, which apply to monitored drugs prescribed or dispensed to all Ontarians *except* hospital in-patients, prisoners or inmates. Monitored drugs include any controlled substance under the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)* and other opioid medications not listed in the *CDSA* including tramadol containing products. A complete [list of monitored drugs](#) is available on the Ministry's website.

As of November 1, 2011, physicians must include the following information on prescriptions for monitored drugs, in addition to the information that is already required of them:

- Five digit CPSO registration number;
- Identifying number that is provided by the person for whom a monitored drug is prescribed and the type of identifying number (i.e., an approved identification can include a health card, driver's licence, Ontario Photo Card number).

There are exemptions to the requirement to record an identifying number set out in the *NSAA*. [Detailed information](#) is available on the Ministry website.

As of November 1, 2011, physicians who dispense monitored drugs must also keep a record of information specified in the *NSAA*, in addition to the information they are already required to maintain. [Detailed information](#) about is available on the Ministry website.

For More Information

The Ministry has developed answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to help prescribers and dispensers understand their new obligations under the *NSAA*.

In addition, a [Notice from the Executive Officer](#) provides an update respecting the implementation of the new legislative requirements, including additional information developed by the Ministry in response to questions received from health professionals and others.