FAQ for Provincial Canadian Drug News Database (CDN)

What is the purpose of the Canadian Drug News database (CDN) and who is the audience?
- To provide a single/one-stop information source for AHS staff, regarding changes in the Canadian drug market.

What information is <u>included</u> in CDN?
- Information on prescription drugs, including contrast agents and radiopharmaceuticals:
    - New drugs/products
    - New indications
    - New product formulations, including strength, form, generics, or new manufacturers
    - Recalls
    - Revisions to the product information/monograph.
    - Safety alerts
    - Discontinued products.
    - Miscellaneous information, e.g. manufacturer name changes, changes to tablet or capsule appearance, and labeling changes related to safety.

- Information on non-prescription drugs
    - New drugs/products
    - New indications
    - Recalls
    - Safety alerts/product recalls
    - Discontinued drugs

- Biologicals, including blood products:
    - New biologicals/products
    - New indications
    - New product formulations, including strength, form, generics, or new manufacturers.
    - Recalls
    - Revisions to the product information/monograph.
    - Safety alerts
    - Discontinued products

What information is <u>excluded</u> from CDN?
- Prescription, non-prescription drugs and biologics not on the Canadian market
- For biologicals: Manufacturer name changes or changes in product appearance
- For non-prescription drugs:
    - New product formulations, including strength, new or revised dosage form, generics, or new manufacturers
    - Product information revisions, unless they are significant patient safety issues.
    - Manufacturer name changes or changes in product appearance

What information is <u>excluded</u> from CDN?

- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Drugs available from the Special Access Programme (SAP) or investigational drugs, except when a commercially available product becomes available through SAP. Please click on the following link for a list of SAP products: http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/6489.asp.
- Veterinary products
- Medical/surgical equipment or supplies
- Format/size changes, except labeling changes related to safety
- Pricing information
- Product shortages or backorders (Please click on the following link for the AHS Backorder database: http://intraweb01.albertahealthservices.ca/Pharmacy/BACKORDERS/Default.aspx.

What are the information sources for the database?

- Canadian pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Health Canada:
    - Notice of Compliance (NOC) database
    - MedEffect Advisories, Warnings, and Recalls
    - Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter
- Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) newsletters:
    - ISMP Medication Safety Alert – Acute Care Edition
    - ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin
    - ISMP Nurse Advise-ERR)
- ECRI Institute Alerts Tracker newsletter (https://www.ecri.org/Pages/default.aspx)
- U.S. FDA safety alerts which are applicable to Canadian drugs
- Other publicly available sources of pharmaceutical news (e.g. *Pharmacy Bulletin Board, PharmaDirect, Canadian Healthcare Network, etc.)*

How Can I Search for Updates to AHFS Drug Classes?

- You may search by AHFS class, the date parameters, and the information categories.
- The default search date is from January, 2002, until the present date.

How Do I Sign up for Alerts?

- Select **Subscribe to Email** Notifications to receive a daily, weekly, or monthly digest of updates to the CDN database. You may select part or all of the information categories for the email notification.
- Subscribe to RSS feeds for updates to the database.

What is a Notice of Compliance (NOC)?

- This is a notification indicating that a manufacturer has complied with sections C.08.002 or C.08.003 and C.08.005.1 of the Canadian *Food and Drug Regulations*, which allows the drug to be marketed in Canada.
- A Notice of Compliance with conditions (NOC/c) is authorization to market a drug, with the condition that the sponsor undertakes additional studies to verify the clinical benefit.

Who maintains CDN, and who do I contact with questions?

- AHS Drug Information staff will assess the information and enter it into the database.
- You may provide comments by clicking on the **Comment/Feedback** on the right-hand CDN menu, or you may use the **Comment** link in the CDN record.

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