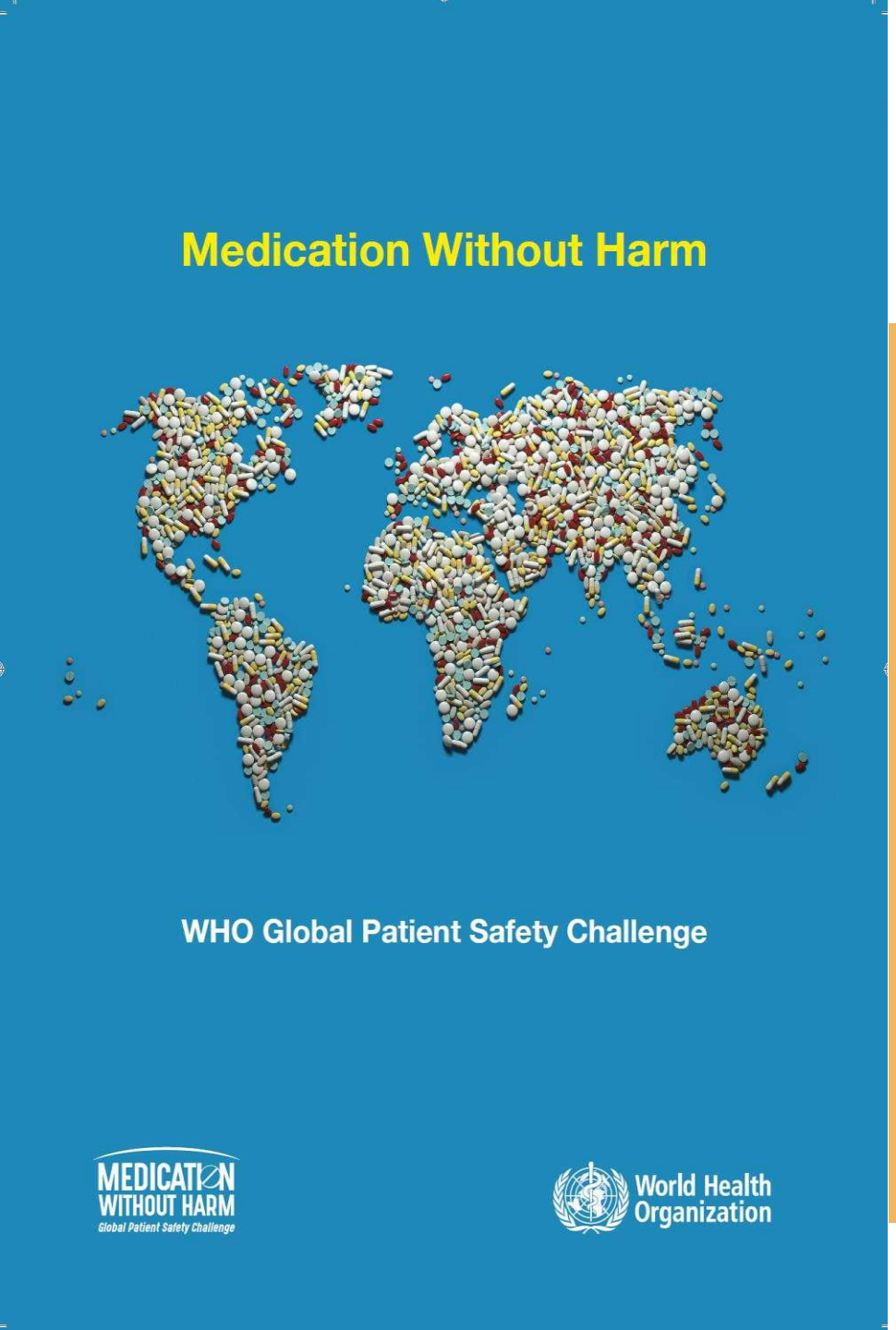


MEDICATION WITHOUT HARM
Global Patient Safety Challenge

World Health Organization

Medication error reporting and learning, and pharmacovigilance systems at the national and organizational level

Carolyn Hoffman
Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP)
Canada

12 April 2022

Country Level Medication Error Reporting and Learning Systems: Reflections from Canada

Carolyn E. Hoffman, RN BSN MN
Chief Executive Officer

April 12, 2022 Webinar #3
WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Medication Without Harm*

A Trusted Partner

Strengthening medication safety through timely learning, sharing, and acting to improve health care.

ISMP Canada is a national, **independent, not-for-profit** organization that purposefully partners with organizations, practitioners, consumers, and caregivers to advance medication safety in all healthcare settings.

ISMP CANADA

For over 20 years…

Canadian Medication Incident Reporting & Prevention System

CMIRPS SCDPIM

2000

Patient Safety movement begins in country and national **coalition on med safety** launches

2002

Business Plan* for CMIRPS developed and endorsed

2003

CMIRPS launched with collaborative partners – ISMP Canada receives funding from **Health Canada**

2010

Community pharmacy & consumer med incident reporting launched

2022

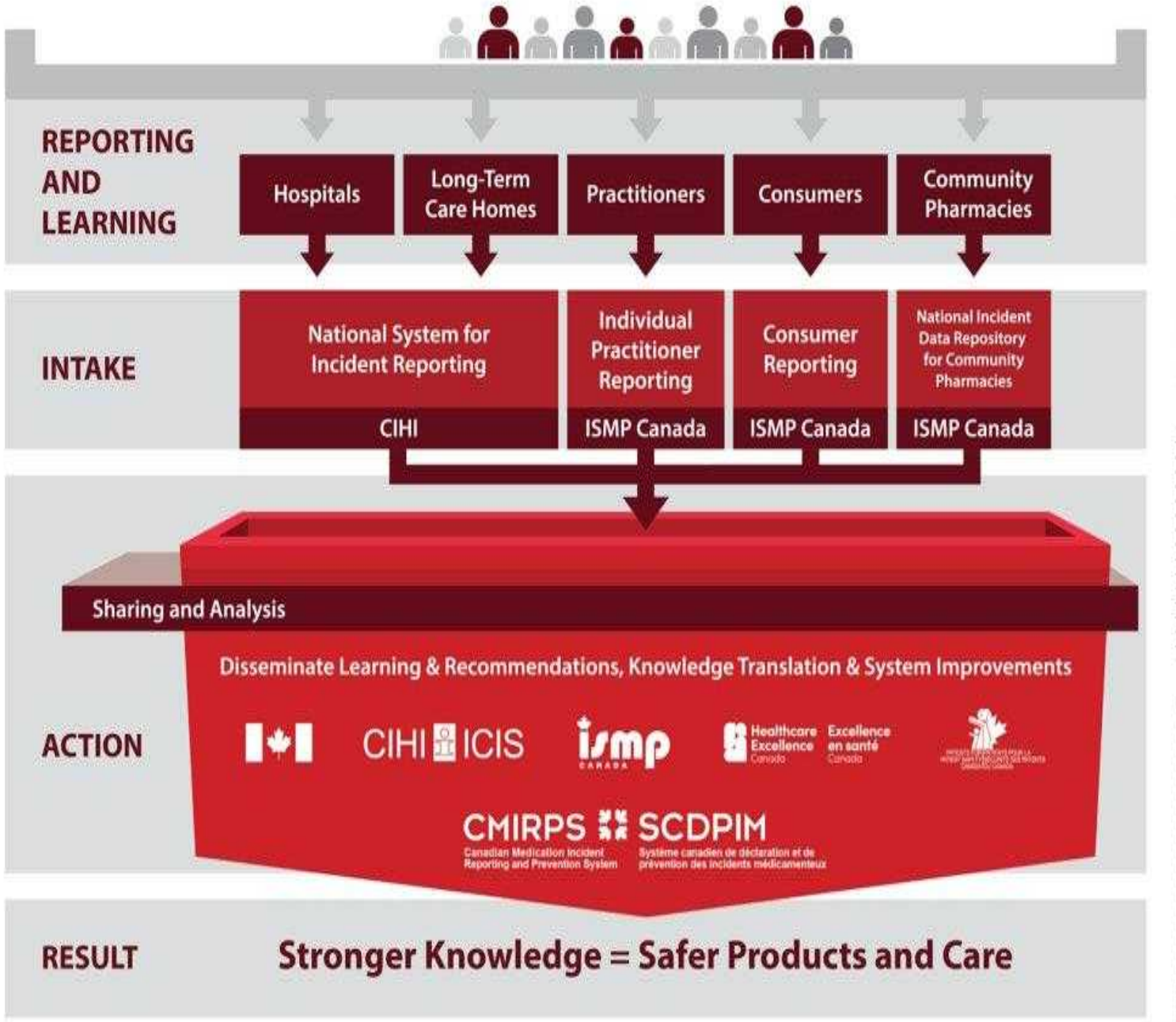
CMIRPS Coordinating Group continues to meet quarterly to advance the system

2022

Every year, over 25,000 medication incident reports are submitted to ISMP Canada!

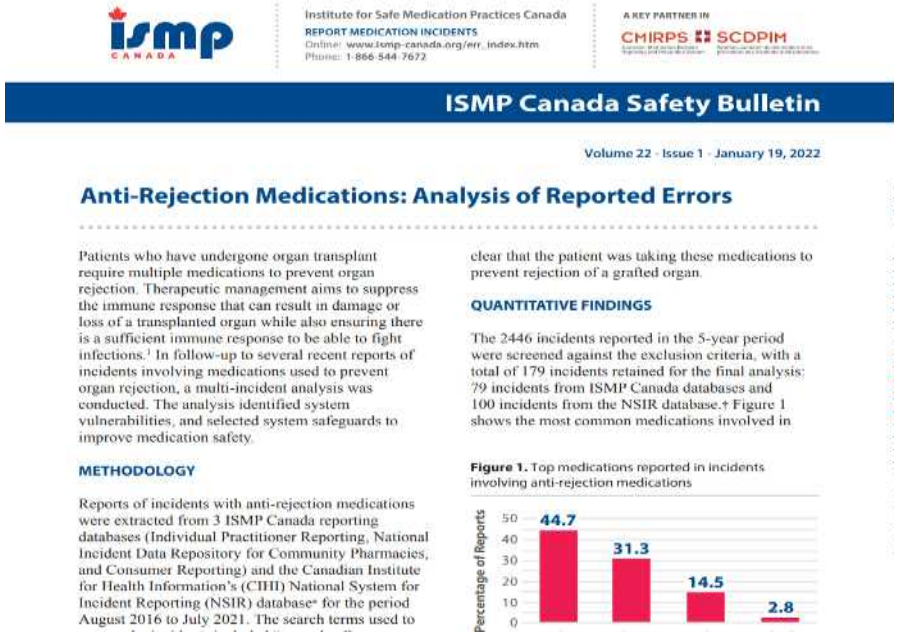
*See **Resources List** for a link to the Business Plan

A Systems Approach



Learn, Share, & Act

See ismpcanada.ca for free health system and provider bulletins and consumer newsletters (English & French)



Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
REPORT MEDICATION INCIDENTS
Online: www.ismp-canada.org/err_index.htm
Phone: 1-866-544-7672

A KEY PARTNER IN CMIRPS SCDPIM

ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin

Volume 22 · Issue 1 · January 19, 2022

Anti-Rejection Medications: Analysis of Reported Errors

Patients who have undergone organ transplant require multiple medications to prevent organ rejection. Therapeutic management aims to suppress the immune response that can result in damage or loss of a transplanted organ while also ensuring there is a sufficient immune response to be able to fight infections.[1] In follow-up to several recent reports of incidents involving medications used to prevent organ rejection, a multi-incident analysis was conducted. The analysis identified system vulnerabilities, and selected system safeguards to improve medication safety.

METHODOLOGY

Reports of incidents with anti-rejection medications were extracted from 3 ISMP Canada reporting databases (Individual Practitioner Reporting, National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies, and Consumer Reporting) and the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) National System for Incident Reporting (NSIR) database* for the period August 2016 to July 2021. The search terms used to clear that the patient was taking these medications to prevent rejection of a grafted organ.

QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

The 2446 incidents reported in the 5-year period were screened against the exclusion criteria, with a total of 179 incidents retained for the final analysis: 79 incidents from ISMP Canada databases and 100 incidents from the NSIR database.† Figure 1 shows the most common medications involved in

Figure 1. Top medications reported in incidents involving anti-rejection medications

SafeMedicationUse.ca
SUPPORTED BY HEALTH CANADA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ISMP CANADA

A COMPONENT OF THE CMIRPS SCDPIM

Consumers Can Help Prevent Harmful Medication Incidents

SafeMedicationUse.ca Newsletter

Volume 13 - Issue 2 - February 16, 2022

Tips for Parents When Medications Need to Be Compounded

Medications are not always available in a form that's easy for children to take. If your child gets a prescription for a medication that isn't commercially available as a liquid (or other suitable form), one option is for the pharmacy to prepare the medication using a process called compounding.

A compounded medication is specially made by the pharmacy team for the needs of your child. Extra preparation steps are required, and there can be additional risk of errors. Parents need to know the benefits and risks of having a medication compounded for their child.

SafeMedicationUse.ca recently learned about 2 children who were harmed because of errors that happened during compounding. One child got very little of the prescribed dose, and the second child received a 1000 times overdose.

SafeMedicationUse.ca has the following tips for parents to help prevent medication errors related to the compounding of children's medications:

- Let your prescriber know whether your child can swallow pills and the size of the tablets or capsules they can manage. This knowledge can help the prescriber to select the right medication for your child.
- Ask if there are any other options available if a prescriber or pharmacist tells you that the medication needs to be compounded. Sometimes the prescription can be changed to a different medication that is available

Health system & provider bulletin at:
https://www.ismp-canada.org/ISMPCSafetyBulletins.htm

Consumer newsletter:
https://safemedicationuse.ca/newsletter/compounding.html

Learn, Share, & Act

ISMP Canada staff use medication safety analysis findings and recommendations to inform and assist healthcare organizations to:

- Self assess their medication management processes
- Map med safety processes
- Implement QI strategies
- Evaluate their progress toward Medication Without Harm!

Considerations for Developing In-Country Reporting & Learning Systems

- ✓ **Learn** about the shared lived experiences of those prescribing, preparing, administering, and taking medications
- ✓ **Share** the learning with compelling, actionable, evidence-informed recommendations
- ✓ **Act** at the level you can and then repeat the cycle
- ✓ Advance a **Just and Trusting Reporting Culture**
- ✓ **Collaborate** with those who have the expertise, mandates, and resources to advance in-country reporting & learning

Resources

For more information:

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- Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
  https://ismpcanada.ca
- Business Plan for a Medication Incident Reporting & Prevention System for Canada
  https://www.ismp-canada.org/download/cmirps-scdpim_rep-rapp_e.pdf
- Canadian Medication Incident Reporting and Prevention System (CMIRPS)
  https://www.ismp-canada.org/cmirps/
- Health Canada's Role in the Management & Prevention of Harmful Medication Incidents
  https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/medeffect-canada-role-management-prevention-harmful-medication-incidents.html
- Healthcare Excellence Canada
  https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/
- Canadian Institute for Health Information (Healthcare facility reporting)
  https://www.cihi.ca/en/national-system-for-incident-reporting-nsir
- Patients for Patient Safety Canada
  https://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/en/About/Programs/PPSC/Pages/default.aspx