

Take Your PIC

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National News

FDA Unveils Safe Use Initiative that Targets Preventable Harm from Medication Use

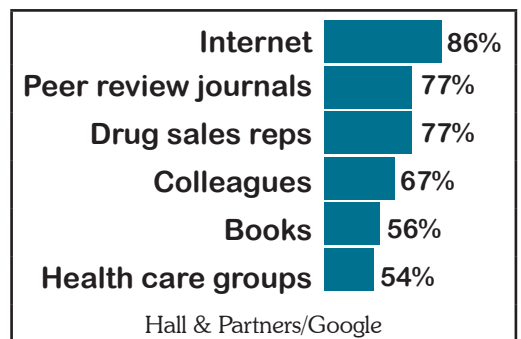
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently announced the Safe Use Initiative, a program aimed at reducing the likelihood of preventable harm from medication use. The FDA intends to collaborate with health care professionals and other stakeholders to identify drugs and drug classes that are linked to preventable harm. Several risk-reduction projects may benefit from Safe Use collaborations, including evaluating consumer medication information, communicating about the risk of inadvertent overexposure to acetaminophen, implementing safeguards against surgery fires caused by alcohol-based surgical preps, and avoiding contamination of multiple use medication vials. To further advance the Safe Use Initiative, the FDA intends to hold a series of public meetings to gather feedback as the candidate list is being developed and will open a public docket to receive comments on the report and proposed candidate cases. [Read more](#)

What Resources Do Doctors Seek for Health, Medical or Drug Information?

The Internet is the most popular health information resource among physicians, with 86 percent of doctors reporting that they have used the Internet to search for health, medical or prescription drug information, according to a [new online survey](#) from thinkhealth With Google.*

Seventy-seven percent of physicians said they consult peer review journals for health information, while another 77 percent reported turning to pharmaceutical sales representatives for information. Meanwhile, 67 percent of doctors report using their colleagues to find health, medical or prescription drug information, 56 percent use books as a resource and 54 percent turn to health-related organizations and associations.

*Results are based on an online survey of 411 physicians conducted from May 20, 2009, to June 8, 2009.



Drug Safety: FDA Has Begun Efforts to Enhance Postmarket Safety, but Additional Actions Are Needed

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report on the efforts that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) undertaking to address previously identified weaknesses in its oversight of postmarket drug safety issues. The agency is changing its postmarket decision-making process as part of its Safety First Initiative, which includes formalizing interactions between the Office of New Drugs (OND) and the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (OSE) and providing OSE with added responsibilities.

The FDA plans to implement new data systems and is increasing access to external data to assist with drug safety decisions. The FDA plans to implement new systems in 2010 to improve the timeliness, quality, and analysis of reports of adverse events associated with human drug use. The FDA has also increased funding for contracts with private companies and is in *(continued on page 2)*

Please forward this newsletter to those in your organization that can benefit from the information. Note that a number of useful links to the Internet are embedded. To fully benefit from the content presented, view this newsletter electronically and click on the [green type](#). Electronic versions of *Take Your PIC* can be accessed at www.nmmra.org/resources/?group=63.

Comments on our new format? We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact **Galina Priloutskaya** at (505) 998-9765.

For more information on any of these topics or to subscribe, unsubscribe, or suggest topics for *Take Your PIC*, contact **Galina Priloutskaya** at (505) 998-9765.

Save the Date

Next NMPIC Regional Meetings:

Santa Fe:

February 8, 2010
Christus St. Vincent
Regional Medical
Center
(Luncheon)

Espanola:

February 8, 2010
Buffalo Thunder
(Dinner)

Taos:

February 9, 2010
El Monte Sagrado
(Dinner)

Presentation:

"The Use of
Health Information
Technology for
Patient-Centered
Medical Homes"

Featured Topics:

E-Prescribing
Requirement for
Free Subscriptions,
MTM and PIM
Updates

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(continued from page 1) the early stages of forming partnerships with federal data holders to access external data. As mandated in the 2007 legislation, the FDA is developing the Sentinel System, a network of external data providers intended to enhance drug safety surveillance, but the agency is in the early stages of developing it. [Read report highlights](#)

Hospital Advisory Councils Improve Patient Care

With funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Aurora Health Care, a large health care system in Milwaukee, has developed a patient safety council of patients, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and outside experts to reduce medical errors in its 100 outpatient clinics. Based on over three years of the council's work that included research and community outreach, the council has produced a step-by-step guide that was published by AHRQ, designed to help others create patient safety advisory councils. [Read full article](#)

NMPIC Updates

MTM Project: MTM faculty provided a Web-based training session on data entry for participating pharmacists on use of the PharmMD data portal. [Access webinar](#) A second session for advanced users will be held on December 17. [Register now](#) NMMRA's **Alex Vigil** is a superuser of the data portal and may be contacted for technical assistance at (505) 998-9766.

E-Prescribing Project: Recruitment for phase 2 of the e-prescribing project continues. About 55 physicians are participating and are selecting e-prescribing solutions. About 35 more physicians will be accepted. If you wish to participate, please contact [Galina Priloutskaya](#).

E-Prescribing Project - Phase 1 Evaluation:

NMMRA administered surveys with targeted physicians on their satisfaction with e-prescribing and NMPIC's Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Board met to evaluate their feedback. Selected finding and recommendations include:

- Monthly volume of electronic prescriptions for November 2009 was 3,446, with an average of 6.8 prescriptions per provider. Further training may be needed with some providers to activate their e-prescribing.
- The number of electronic renewals transmitted in the last 30 days dropped to 1,090, with an average of 19.5 renewals per provider. It was reported that some pharmacies are requesting refill authorization from prescribers by fax, even though original prescriptions were sent electronically. Pharmacies should accept electronic requests for refills.
- Some providers expressed dissatisfaction with their e-prescribing reporting capabilities. Vendors were asked to provide webinars on their software's reporting features.
- Overall, 70 percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with their e-prescribing experience.

eHealth Initiative Free Webinars

Regional Extension Centers: The Key to Meaningful Use?

Monday, December 21, 2009

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. MT

Free to the Public

[Register Now!](#)

Dissecting the Meaningful Use Proposed Rule

December TBA

Free to the Public

[Sign up for Date
Notification](#)

E-Prescribing 2.0: Electronic Health Records and Care Coordination

Tuesday, January 12, 2009

noon - 1:00 p.m. MT

Free to eHI Members

[Register Now!](#)