



Q4 2025 MD Snapshot- Prescribing Companion: **How antibiotic data supports self-reflection and evidence- informed prescribing**

Prescribing Resource

Physician Prescribing Practices (PPP) Program
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Background

CPSA's Physician Prescribing Practices (PPP) team offers resources and tools to help physicians provide safe and informed prescribing practices. The MD Snapshot-Prescribing reports present physicians with a clear overview of their prescribing trends, including information on opioids, benzodiazepines/Z-drugs and antibiotics.

CPSA aims to equip physicians with meaningful, non-punitive personalized prescribing data to reaffirm strong prescribing practices and guide future improvements. The MD Snapshot-Prescribing report is a self-reflection tool for prescribers and is not an evaluation or report card.

Overview

The Q3 2025 MD Snapshot-Prescribing report introduced refinements to the antibiotics page to support more in-depth self-reflection and continuous quality improvement in antibiotic prescribing.

CPSA presented these updates in November 2025 at the [AMR Symposium](#) in Toronto during the panel discussion: *The Canadian Antibiotic Prescribing Feedback Initiative: Building a National Framework to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance in Primary Care (CANBuild-AMR)*.

Within this resource document, prescribers will learn more about:

- **What's new in the MD Snapshot-Prescribing report**
- **Stewardship in practice: Antibiotic prescriber resources**
 - Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance
 - Unique antibiotic case study scenarios
- **Understanding peer comparator groups**
- **Understanding your data**

Questions? For inquiries or feedback, please contact us by email at AIR.Inquiries@cpsa.ab.ca.

What's new in the MD Snapshot-Prescribing report

Antibiotic section updates

Three key updates were added to the antibiotic section of the MD Snapshot-Prescribing report, including:

- Proportion of antibiotic dispenses with more than seven days' supply
- Count of patients prescribed antibiotics
- Fluoroquinolone dispenses

Stewardship in practice: Antibiotic prescriber resources

Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance

A key resource highlighted at the [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Symposium](#) is the [Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance](#) available through the **Firstline platform**. This tool supports judicious antibiotic use for common primary-care infections.

How to access the guidance:

1. Tap the Download mobile app button to install Firstline for free.
2. Open the app and tap Select Location.
3. Choose Canadian Antibiotic Treatment Guidance.

The guidance may also be viewed on a web browser. The initial release focuses on respiratory tract infections, with additional syndromes to be added over time.

Two unique antibiotic case study scenarios

The following [two antibiotic prescribing cases](#) illustrate clinical scenarios in which patient-specific factors appropriately warrant deviation from standard first-line prescribing recommendations.

Case 1 describes a patient from an Indigenous community presenting with acute pharyngitis, where a treatment duration exceeding seven days is clinically appropriate given contextual and access-related considerations.

Case 2 involves an adult patient with severe community-acquired pneumonia and a documented anaphylactic cephalosporin allergy, necessitating alternative empiric therapy to ensure patient safety.

Together, these cases emphasize the importance of applying clinical judgment alongside guideline-informed flexibility to support safe and effective antibiotic prescribing.

[View the case studies here](#)

Understanding peer comparator groups

Purpose of peer comparison data

Peer comparison data provides essential context, enabling physicians to reflect on prescribing patterns relative to colleagues in similar practice environments.

Physicians are assigned to comparator groups based on their most recent speciality indicated within their annual Renewal Information Form (RIF). To protect anonymity, CPSA maintains a minimum threshold of 30 physicians per comparator group. Specialties with fewer than 30 members are combined with those demonstrating similar prescribing patterns. Physicians who identify as belonging to a Primary Care Network (PCN) within their annual RIF receive an additional peer comparison group.

Understanding your data

All Snapshot data comes from the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) and reflects community dispenses only.

The Snapshot does not include:

- Indicator data (the indication associated with medications prescribed)
- Denominator data (total number of patients seen by a prescriber)
- Acute-care prescribing (prescribing that occurs in emergency rooms or hospitals)

Physicians should interpret results alongside clinical judgment and the needs of their patient population.

Moving forward

These antibiotic-related updates reflect CPSA's commitment to providing clear, useful information that supports stewardship and enhances patient care. Physicians are encouraged to use both the **MD Snapshot-Prescribing report** and prescribing recourses such as **Firstline platform** as complementary tools for reflection and prescribing support.

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References

AMR Symposium. (2025). AMR Symposium. <https://amrsymposium.com/>

Firstline. (2025). Canadian antibiotic treatment guidance. <https://firstline.org/canada/>