



# TOP 10 Reasons Orders are not meeting SMOW Standards

## Background:

Nationwide, order writing is the most error prone step in the medication process. As an Accreditation Canada requirement, data outlining adherence of orders to the NH Safe Medication Order Writing (SMOW) policy is now being collected in Cerner and will be reported to NH physicians to target quality improvement.

## Top Prescriber Non-Adherence

(most common to least common in NH, for all orders in May 2018)

1. 17.2% Missing prescriber College ID/signature
2. 13.3% Missing date (or time when critically ill)
3. 10.4% Missing PRN indication
4. 2.7% Unapproved Abbreviations (see back side)
5. 1.7% Other (ambiguous order, allergies, etc)
6. 0.9% Missing route (when multiple routes available)
7. 0.6% Missing frequency
8. 0.5% Illegible
9. 0.3% Missing dose

## Resources Available:

- [Safe Medication Order Writing Policy](#)
- [Learning Hub](#) Education Module: [NHA - PHAR Safe Medication Order writing for Prescribers](#)

Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

For the information of: prescribers and transcribers.

Physicians	✓
Pharmacy	✓
Nursing	✓

For further information please contact Medication Safety & Informatics Pharmacist

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**PLEASE POST**



## Unacceptable Abbreviations ISMP Canada and Accreditation Canada

Unacceptable	Correct Term of Method
Drug Name Abbreviations	Print drug name fully (Abbreviations are acceptable only if used in a Health Canada approved drug monograph)
U or IU	Unit
QD or QOD or OD	Daily
OS, OD, OU	Left eye, Right Eye, Both Eyes
D/C (for use as "Discharge")	Write "Discharge Patient" instead of D/C Write "Stop" for Discontinuation of an order
Cc or cc	mL or millilitre or milliliter
µg	mcg or microgram
@	At
> or < or =	Greater than, Less than, Equal to
Trailing Zero	X mg (not X.0 mg)
Lack of Leading Zero	0.X mg (not .X mg)