
President's Letter

February 20, 2012



Sandra Luscombe, MD
President

MedRunner e-prescribing product raises privacy concerns

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has advised the NLMA that an e-prescribing product being promoted by MedRunner Health Solutions to physicians in the province may not be in compliance with the *Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA).

Commissioner Ed Ring met recently with NLMA senior staff and indicated he has concerns regarding the product in relation to the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information. The Commissioner has written to the company requesting a meeting to discuss these concerns.

MedRunner has held demonstrations of its product for physicians and pharmacists, and some physicians may have already been provided with a free tablet. There are questions about what data MedRunner may be mining from the e-prescribing product and how it is using this data, given that it does not charge a fee to physicians or pharmacists for using the product.

There are also questions about whether or not patients have given permission to their physician or pharmacist to use the MedRunner product to transmit prescription information. Most importantly, there are questions about how MedRunner is protecting patient data.

The MedRunner product is not connected in any way to the province's Pharmacy Network.

Until the Commissioner is satisfied that MedRunner is in compliance with PHIA, the NLMA is advising physicians not to use the product. Any physician who may already be using the service is asked to contact the NLMA at nlma@nlma.nl.ca.

For more information about PHIA and to ensure you are in compliance with the legislation, visit <http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/phia/index.html>.

Regards,



Sandra Luscombe, MD
President



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