

Return no. 23 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding mental health/detox facilities, (a) what policies/work standards/ procedures are in place to ensure that a person is psychologically stable, cognitively mature and free from any form of duress so as to ensure they can adequately provide informed consent, (b) how many vaccinations were administered in adult and youth acute mental health facilities and detox centres in Saskatchewan, (c) what was the legal status of those patients at the time—voluntary or involuntary—under the Saskatchewan mental health Act at the time of vaccination, and (d) what are the work standards/policies/procedures for vaccine administration on voluntary patients on a mental health in-patient unit for adults and youth?

Answers:

- (a) Sections within the *Health Information Protection Act (HIPA)* and *The Mental Health Services Act* afford rights with respect to informed consent to all individuals. The Saskatchewan Health Authority have internal policies, which ensure informed consent at both in-patient mental health and detoxification facilities. Further, according to the client rights within the *Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Services Program Guidelines*, detox facilities are required to secure written and informed consent for treatment procedures.
- (b) This information is not available.
- (c) This information is not available.
- (d) The Saskatchewan Health Authority has a provincial Influenza Immunization for Adult Inpatients: 140-40-03 policy which requires voluntary patients admitted to an inpatient mental health centre to provide informed consent in advance of receiving a vaccination.

Return no. 24 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, there are multiple reports of doctors being disciplined, pressured, or coerced for deviating from the established COVID-19 narrative, including Saskatchewan's own Dr. Francis Christian, (a) what role did the SHA play in ensuring Saskatchewan's doctors spoke only in a manner consistent with the established narrative regarding COVID-19, (b) what communications occurred between the SHA and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to ensure that doctors would not spread "misinformation" about COVID-19, (c) who decides whether any duly licensed doctor's medical opinion is "misinformation," (d) what communications were sent to doctors regarding granting medical exemptions for masking and vaccinations with respect to COVID-19, and (e) what communications were sent to doctors regarding 90-day exemptions or any other exemptions from testing after a person recovered from COVID-19?

Answers:

- (a) The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) does not restrict anyone's right to freedom of expression.
- (b) The SHA uses its various public communications channels and stakeholder engagement to provide evidence-based information about public health matters and encourages the public and its partners to do the same.
- (c) The responsibility for licensing physicians and any associated responsibilities for maintaining that license belongs with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS).
- (d) The CPSS provided guidance to physicians regarding these matters.
- (e) The CPSS provided guidance to physicians regarding these matters.



return no 23 (29-2)
and 24

Sessional paper no. 34
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Return no. 25 (Ms. Wilson)

To the Minister of Health, informed consent for medical procedures, (a) what guidelines were/are in place to determine informed consent, has this changed since January 2020, and if so, in what way(s), (b) what information was/is provided to the people administering COVID vaccines to assist them with providing informed consent, both orally and in the form of documentation, has this changed since and during the rollout of the vaccination program, and if so, in what way(s) and where can the public view this information, (c) is this information uniform across all the people administering the vaccines, and (d) do prospective recipients of a vaccine have to first consent to being a subject in a clinical trial, and if not, why not?

Answers:

- (a) It is the professional and legal responsibility of the medical provider to obtain valid informed consent prior to each medical procedure. The Saskatchewan Immunization Manual, available to all immunizers, contains a step-by-step process for obtaining informed consent. Guidelines have not changed since January, 2020.
- (b) Immunizers have access to screening questions, vaccine information sheets, and vaccine after care sheets as well as vaccine information in the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual. The COVID-19 Immunization Manual also includes more detailed information that assists the immunizers to obtain informed consent and address client-specific concerns. The information is updated as new information and evidence on COVID-19 vaccines is received. The Ministry of Health sends notifications to all immunizers when resources are updated. The public can view vaccine information including the screening questions, vaccine information sheet and after care sheet on the Government of Saskatchewan website at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>. This information is also available at all COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- (c) Yes, this information is the same and available for all immunizers.
- (d) No recipients of a vaccine are participants in clinical trials.



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Sessional paper no. 35
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Return no. 26 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding funding pertaining to COVID-19, (a) what payments or fees do hospitals receive relating to COVID-19, has this changed over time, and if so, how (b) what payments or fees do doctors receive relating to COVID-19, has this changed over time, and if so, how, (c) what payments, funding, and/or incentives did the province receive from the federal government in relation to COVID-19, (d) how much funding did the government receive from pharmaceutical companies in 2019, 2020, 2021, and to date in 2022, and (e) has the government been paid fees and/or incentives from pharmaceutical companies for administering PCR tests between 2019 and 2022, and if yes, please provide details?

Answers:

- (a) The Ministry of Health provides the Saskatchewan Health Authority with funding to support health services in hospitals but does not directly fund hospitals.
- (b) The Ministry of Health (Ministry) undertook a number of key initiatives, with the Saskatchewan Medical Association, to support physicians through the pandemic period. Information on these various initiatives is provided below:
- Virtual Care Service Codes – in March 2020, the Ministry implemented temporary pandemic virtual care fee codes for telephone and video assessments to compensate physicians and optometrists for medically required direct patient care provided over the telephone and via secure video conferencing. These were transitioned into a more comprehensive Virtual Care Pilot Payment Schedule with 74 service codes in June of 2021.
 - Pandemic Physician Services Agreement – the Ministry worked with the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Saskatchewan Health Authority to establish a temporary non-fee-for-service contract model for physicians (from April 2020 to June 2020) to create stability and flexibility during the pandemic period and allow for necessary deployment of physician resources to areas of need.
 - COVID-19 Immunization Hesitancy Counselling & Administration Service Codes – The Ministry implemented temporary fee codes, in October 2021, to recognize the work physicians do regarding COVID-19 vaccine promotion, counselling, and administration.
 - PPE Benefit – the Ministry and Saskatchewan Medical Association established a temporary benefit payment to provide funding to self-employed physicians to help offset increased PPE costs incurred during the pandemic.
 - Self-Isolation Benefit – the Ministry and Saskatchewan Medical Association established a benefit payment to physicians who must self-isolate due to workplace exposure to COVID-19.
- (c) Payments/funding received by the Saskatchewan provincial government from the federal government from 2019-20 to 2021-22 in relation to COVID-19 totaled \$688.6 million.
- (d) The government did not receive any funding from pharmaceutical companies in 2019, 2020, 2021 or to date in 2022.
- (e) The government has not been paid fees and/or incentives from pharmaceutical companies for administering PCR tests between 2019 and 2022.



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