

HEALTH AND DRUG ALERTS

Online reporting of adverse reactions

Physicians can now file adverse reaction reports with Health Canada online (at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/index_e.html). The online system, launched in late July, makes it more convenient for health professionals and consumers to report adverse events, says René-Pierre Charron, acting manager, Partnerships and Outreach Section, Health Canada.

Adverse events can still be reported via fax or mail as well. "This is an extra way to do it," says Charron. "Making an adverse-reporting system work well requires quantity and high-quality data."

The new system was the result of recommendations gathered during consultations a year ago on MedEffect

(www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect), the centralized portal for current safety information on health products launched in August 2005. "Consumers and health professionals wanted this," says Charron.

The online reporting system is modelled after MedWatch (www.fda.gov/medwatch) in the United States,

he added. "Our form is essentially the same as theirs."

Health Canada will add the information into its central database of adverse events (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/databasdon/index_e.html).

Barbara Sibbald
CMAJ

Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter Bulletin canadien des effets indésirables

To receive the Newsletter and health product Advisories free by email, join Health Canada's **MedEffect** mailing list.

Go to www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/subscribe-abonnement/index_e.html.

Inscrivez-vous à la liste **MedEffet** de Santé Canada pour recevoir gratuitement par courriel le Bulletin et les Avis au sujet des produits de santé. Rendez-vous à l'adresse www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/subscribe-abonnement/index_f.html.

**Report adverse reactions toll free to Health Canada
Signaler sans frais des effets indésirables à Santé Canada**

Tel./Tél. : 866 234-2345 • Fax/Télec. : 866 678-6789

Canada

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Introducing the leaders of the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute

**A renowned cardiologist.
An accomplished scientist.
A skilled cardiac surgeon.**

Edmonton's Capital Health, with the University of Alberta, is proud to introduce a dynamic new leadership team for the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.

Clinical Director Dr. David Johnstone, a nationally renowned cardiologist specializing in cardiac best practices and outcomes, will lead the heart care team in the new facility, providing leading-edge treatment and training for the next generation of health care providers.

Accomplished scientist Dr. Gary Lopaschuk is a world leader in the area of molecular heart science and energy metabolism. As Scientific Director, Dr. Lopaschuk will further develop the research that pushes the frontier of what is possible in preventing and treating heart disease.

Dr. Arvind Koshal, a skilled cardiovascular surgeon, is the head of a nationally recognized cardiac surgery program and a leading regional cardiac science program. As Director of Development and External Affairs, Dr. Koshal's role reaches beyond the Institute's walls into the community as well as nationally and internationally to extend the Institute's contribution to the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

These exceptional leaders and the broader Alberta cardiac sciences team share the same singular and powerful goal: to better prevent heart disease and ensure Albertans have access to the best heart care in Canada.

The new Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute will open in 2007 in Edmonton, Alberta.



Clockwise from bottom right, Dr. David Johnstone - Clinical Director, Dr. Gary Lopaschuk - Scientific Director, Dr. Arvind Koshal - Director of Development & External Affairs

