



# PSLS: Why Reporting Matters

## What is PSLS?

The **BC Patient Safety and Learning System** or **PSLS** is a provincial web-based reporting, learning and management tool used by care providers across all BC healthcare organizations. It's aim is to improve safety by:

- Capturing event data (safety events, near misses and hazards)
- Investigating events
- Managing the event reporting process
- Analyzing data to mitigate safety risks

## Why report?

**Vanessa's Law** requires hospitals to report serious adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and medical device incidents (MDIs). This regulation aims to capture incidents from various settings, like long-term care facilities, that lead to hospital transfers or emergency visits. While mandatory reporting applies to hospitals, all health care providers are encouraged to report ADRs, MDIs, as well as other patient support failures in PSLS.

## Who should report?

Health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, technicians, and pharmacists, are responsible for reporting.

The first person to discover an ADR or MDI should report it in PSLS, as they can provide the most accurate details. Reporters may be contacted by BCPSLS Central Office for more information or feedback.

## What to report:

### Serious Adverse Drug Reaction:

A noxious, unintended response to a drug that:

- required inpatient hospitalization or prolongation of existing hospitalization;
- caused congenital malformation;
- resulted in persistent or significant disability or incapacity;
- was life-threatening, or resulted in death; or
- led to other important medical events (use professional judgement).

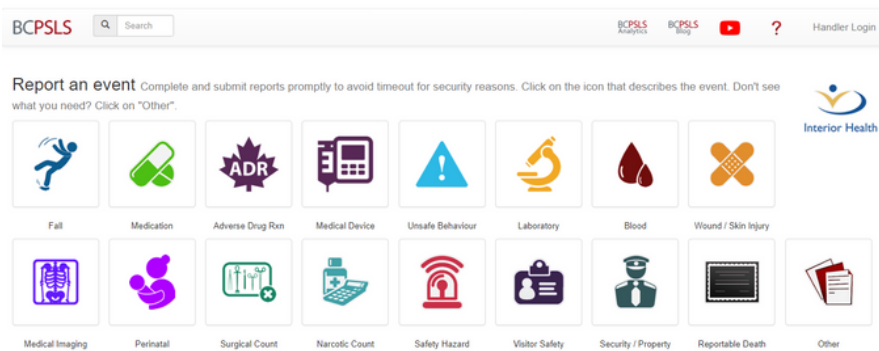
### Serious Medical Device\* Incident:

An incident related to the failure of a medical device, deterioration in its effectiveness, or inadequacy in its labeling or directions that:

- led to the death or serious deterioration in the health of a patient, user or other person, OR
- could do so were it to recur.

*\*Medical devices include a wide range of equipment: hospital beds, wheelchairs, infusion sets, catheters, pacemakers, implants, syringes, ventilators, tracheostomy tubes, laboratory instruments, etc.*

### Other System Failures in Patient Support:



Physicians are encouraged to get involved with PSLS any time a system failure is demonstrated as events are tracked and require formal follow-up and closure, ensuring concerns are heard.

## How to report:

Physicians can use their health authority work credentials to access the PSLS platform via internal SharePoint or medical staff websites/hubs. Support is available from dedicated PSLS teams to help with any technical issues or questions. To ensure that staff feel comfortable reporting incidents, some health authorities offer anonymous reporting options.

**Can't get to a computer?**

**You can also report by phone at 1-877-789-PSLS (7757)**

For Interior Health (IH) Medical Staff, click [here](#) for instructions on how to find the PSLS reporting link on the IH website.