



## **NEWS RELEASE – April 14, 2010**

### **SASKATCHEWAN INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER ISSUES FIRST REPORT INTO BREACH OF SASKATCHEWAN'S PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM**

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, Gary Dickson, today released his first Investigation Report that deals with the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP), a key building block of the developing electronic health record (EHR) for all Saskatchewan residents. In his report, Dickson found that L & M Pharmacy Inc. (L & M), a licensed pharmacy located in the Sunrise Health Region, had breached *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA) in a number of ways.

The Commissioner found that a pharmacist employed by L & M had improperly viewed the profiles of three individuals a total of nine times in early 2009 without lawful authority and contrary to the requirements of HIPA. The pharmacist did this for personal reasons and at a time when the three individuals in question were not patients of L & M Pharmacy.

Dickson found that L & M failed to create policies and procedures to ensure compliance by its staff with HIPA. He also found inadequate safeguards in the process to accredit a User of PIP.

Dickson issued 9 findings and 21 recommendations for changes required to PIP and the policies and practices of the organizations considered in the investigation namely, L & M, Saskatchewan Health and the Sunrise Regional Health Authority.

Finally, in his Postscript to the Report, Dickson offered general commentary on what he described as a significant weakness in the PIP system revealed in this investigation. That related to the failure to adequately address the risk posed by the carelessness of trustee organizations and the curiosity of trustee staff.

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