

Improving Health Product Safety: Research, Resources, and Reporting

Karen Jensen MSc, BSP
Manager, Drug Information Consultant
Saskatchewan Drug Information
Service

Outline

- Saskatchewan Drug Information Service
 - What services we provide
 - How we provide these services
 - Collaborations with other healthcare services
- Canada Vigilance – Adverse Reaction Reporting

Saskatchewan Drug information Service

- Healthcare Professional Service
- Consumer Information Service

Professional Line Objectives

- Upon request, provide pharmacists and other healthcare providers in Saskatchewan access to objective, current and concise information on drugs and drug therapy, in a timely manner.
- To provide continuing education related to drugs and drug therapy to healthcare professionals in the province.
- To serve as an experiential training site for pharmacy students, pharmacy residents and postgraduate students.
- To contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the area of drug information.

Consumer Line Objectives

- Provide Saskatchewan consumers with access to objective, accurate, current information on drug-related questions
- Supplement, not replace, advice and information provided by physicians, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals
- Promote the safe and rational use of drugs

Funding

- Saskatchewan Drug Plan, Saskatchewan Health
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Primary Health Care, Saskatchewan Health
- Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists
- Saskatchewan Pharmacies
- College of Pharmacy & Nutrition, U of S
- Industry

Access to Services

- Toll- Free Telephone

Professional Line 8:30AM – 4:30 PM M-F

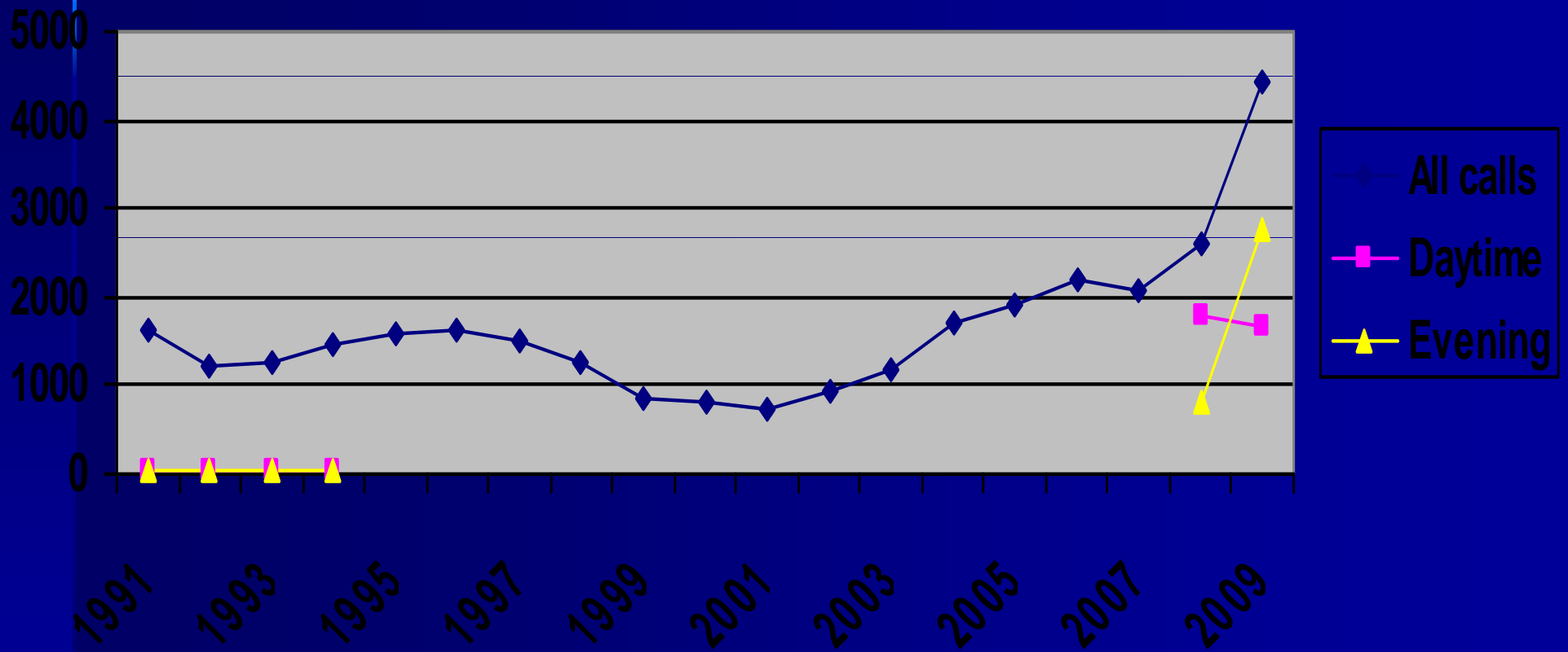
Consumer Line 8 AM – 12 midnight M-F,
5 PM – 12 midnight weekends, holidays

- Voicemail after hours
- Fax (306) 966-2286
- Submit question via website
www.druginfo.usask.ca

Who Uses SDIS

Profession	Number (%)	Profession	Number (%)
Community pharmacist	1799 (73)	Nurse practitioner	46 (1.5)
Physician	178 (7)	Other	43 (1.5)
Travel clinic nurse	143 (6)	Pharmacy instructor	25 (1)
Nurse (other)	99 (4)	Dietician/nutritionist	18 (1)
Public health nurse	87 (3)	Student (other)	12 (0.5)
Hospital pharmacist	76 (3)	Dentist	3
Pharmacist (other)	73 (3)	Lactation consultant	2
Pharmacy student	60 (2)	Optometrist	1

Consumer Calls by Year



Systematic Approach to Drug Information Questions

- Step 1: Caller Information
- Step 2: Background Information
- Step 3: Determine Ultimate Question
- Step 4: Research
- Step 5: Evaluate, Analyze, Synthesize Data
- Step 6: Formulate and Provide Response
- Step 7: Documentation and Follow-Up

Interdisciplinary Collaborations

- Canada Vigilance Regional Office
- HealthLine
- RxFiles
- Lung Association of Saskatchewan
- SIAST Nurse Practitioners Program
- Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Initiative

Example 1

- 70 year old male, hypertension
- Started Cozaar (losartan) in 1996
- 2 months later memory deterioration began to be noticeable
- Not listed as AR in monograph at that time

- Patient's wife called the Consumer Drug Information line
- Medical lit search – no reports
- MSD Medical Information– 2 case reports
- Adverse Reaction Report filed with Health Canada

Follow-up/Outcomes

- Drug d/c – a few months later “back to normal”
- Memory loss now listed as an adverse effect in monograph

Example 2

- 66 year old female, hypertension, OA of hip
- Symptoms – black stools, diarrhea
- Medications: amlodipine 5 mg OD, valsartan 160 mg OD for 2 years
- Diclofenac 6 % in Diffusimax applied BID-TID – started 2 days ago
- Returned home last week from trip to Dominican Republic

Example 3

- 22 year old male
- gynecomastia, erectile dysfunction
- Vitex, dong quai, wild yam to treat hair loss
- Sx not listed as ARs in natural product monographs
- Preliminary evidence of estrogenic activity with all three agents