Removing PIN Outside Reconciliation Flags

What is the Alberta Pharmacy Information Network (PIN)?

The Alberta Pharmacy Information Network (PIN) lists some medications that may have been dispensed for a patient from an outpatient pharmacy. The dispensing information is not the same as prescribing (intended) or complying (actually taking) information. It is more complete for persons over age 65 who are Alberta residents and fill prescriptions in mainstream pharmacies. Still, PIN can offer an independent information source when doing medication reconciliation.

Can PIN medications be imported to Connect Care?

No. An interface was created from Connect Care to the PIN dataset, but after careful consideration of early user experiences, was turned off. To learn more about the rationale behind this decision, please see Unpin from PIN. Medication reconciliation prompts related to PIN data are no longer presented during admission and other workflows, and outside reconciliation flags are no longer active for PIN content.
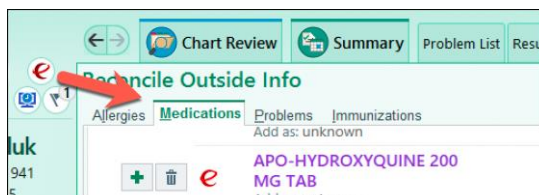
Can PIN information be viewed in Connect Care?

Yes. A full PIN list remains available in Netcare, which can be displayed in-context from within Connect Care (hover over the "Other Clinical Systems" label in the patient storyboard, leftmost area of an open chart). This access allows PIN to be informative, not intrusive.
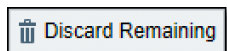
How can left-over PIN flags be cleared?

Some confusion may relate to PIN medication reconciliation flags "left over" from the early Connect Care launch period. These are partial and should not be relied upon. No updates have occurred since early November 2019, when the PIN interface was disabled. It is wise, and easy, to remove these flags.

1. Take note of the top of the Storyboard when a patient chart is open in Hyperspace. If an outside information flag (*e*) appears, click on it to open the "Reconcile Outside Info" activity and select the "Medications" tab:

2. Note the content of the "source" column and any medications left over from "PIN". These reconciliation notifications can be discarded with the discard icon (🗑) in any medication row.
3. It is also possible to discard all stray PIN notices (all rows with discard icons) by using a "Discard All" button at the bottom of the Reconcile Outside Info interface:

Remember to click on the "Accept" button that appears. The Outside Information flag will disappear from the Storyboard.

Will PIN data be Importable in the Future?

A functional PIN interface will be reactivated when the PIN data can be retrieved in a standardized format and clinical decision supports can apply to information imported from PIN.