

Status Update  
PAC Date February 26, 2024

Chapter 15 and 20 – Ministry of Health – Monitoring the Enforcement of Tobacco and Vapour Product’s Legislative Requirements from 2021 and 2023 Report of the Provincial Auditor – Volume 2, respectively.					
Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit	Page	Current Status	Actions Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>1. We recommend the Ministry of Health update its Enforcement Manual to reflect the structure, accountability, and inspection practices for the tobacco and vapour products control program.</p>	183	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tobacco Enforcement Manual (Manual) was revised to reflect legislative and policy changes. Staff involved in the program were provided training on all changes/updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>2. We recommend the Ministry of Health establish a formalized process to maintain a complete list of retail locations that sell tobacco and vapour products.</p>	184	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Finance shares quarterly, a retailer list which is then shared with enforcement officials at the Saskatchewan Health Authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Health officials will implement quarterly audits to compare the completeness of SHA retailer lists to the Finance list.</li> </ul>	Winter 2024
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>3. We recommend the Ministry of Health work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to conduct required youth test shopper inspections of retail locations that sell tobacco and vapour products.</p>	185	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health implemented a program guide with Saskatchewan Health Authority officials to outline minimum Tobacco and Vapour product program objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health will re-examine current targets to determine if they continue to be appropriate.</li> </ul>	2025-26

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<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>4. We recommend the Ministry of Health work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to reinspect retail locations that sell tobacco and vapour products to youth in a timely manner.</p>	185	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above, the Ministry of Health has implemented a program work guide that outlines reinspection objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor SHA compliance with current quarterly reporting requirement.</li> </ul>	2024
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>5. We recommend the Ministry of Health set a reasonable frequency for conducting periodic routine inspections at retail locations that sell tobacco and vapour products.</p>	186	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The updated program work guide includes objectives for routine compliance inspections with the current target being 100% of retailers each year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health will review program targets to determine logistical and staffing capacities, particularly in northern Saskatchewan.</li> </ul>	2025-26
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>6. We recommend the Ministry of Health work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to deliver warning letters and notices of violation to non-compliant retailers selling tobacco or vapour products to minors in a reasonable timeframe.</p>	188	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes noted to the manual include requirements of SHA Officials to make delivery of warnings more efficient and timely including the option to provide a notice at the time of a test shopper visit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented

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<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>7. We recommend the Ministry of Health provide clear guidance to the Saskatchewan Health Authority on handling complaints related to the sale and promotion of tobacco and vapour products.</p>	188	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Manual and the annual program work guide now includes guidance for the documentation of complaints and related activities as well as target timelines for follow-up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry developed new audit report, generated quarterly to examine complaint resolution timelines.</li> </ul>	2023-24
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>8. We recommend the Ministry of Health enhance written reports on enforcement activities (e.g. complaints, trends) given periodically to senior management relating to tobacco and vapour products.</p>	190	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated quarterly accountability reporting for tobacco and vapour products compliance and enforcement program has been implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry will examine further changes to accountability reports based on the Provincial Auditor’s comments.</li> </ul>	2024-25

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Chapter 13- Ministry of Health – Detecting Inappropriate Physician Payments from 2022 Report of the Provincial Auditor – Volume 1					
Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit	Page	Current Status	Actions Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation:</b></p> <p>1. We recommended the Ministry of Health use a comprehensive risk-based strategy to detect inappropriate physician billings for insured services before making payments.</p> <p><i>(2017 Report – Volume 1, p. 76, Recommendation 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 12, 2018)</i></p>	166	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry is working to have a new IT claims system finalized and implemented in February 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the new IT system is implemented the drafted Comprehensive Risk Based Strategy will be finalized.</li> </ul>	June 2024
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation</b></p> <p>2. We recommended the Ministry of Health assess options to conduct more investigations into physician billing practices that it suspects of having inappropriately billed the Government.</p> <p><i>(2017 Report – Volume 1, p. 79, Recommendation 4; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 12, 2018)</i></p>	167	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the new claims system is implemented, options identified to conduct more investigations will be assessed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new IT system is expected to allow for increased investigation capacity.</li> </ul>	September 2024

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Chapter 12 – Health – Coordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services from 2023 Report of the Provincial Auditor – Volume 1.					
Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit	Page	Current Status	Actions Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation</b></p> <p>1. We recommend the Ministry of Health periodically verify medical staff qualifications and training for those providing helicopter ambulance services.</p>	P. 150	Implemented (Provincial Auditor 2023 Volume 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health meets quarterly, from Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS) leadership team to review operational reporting that includes the type of education/training staff participated in.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation</b></p> <p>2. We recommend the Ministry of Health routinely receive and analyze key information about the quality of patient care provided during helicopter ambulance services.</p>	P. 151	Implemented (Provincial Auditor 2023 Volume 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health meets quarterly with STARS to review operational reports that include quality clinical care measurements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation</b></p> <p>3. We recommend the Ministry of Health receive periodic and detailed reporting on the number and reasons for cancelling or declining request for helicopter ambulance services.</p>	P. 152	Implemented (Provincial Auditor 2023 Volume 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health meets quarterly with STARS to review operational reports that include cancelled/declined missions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented

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Chapter 6, 7 & 4 – Healthcare Affiliates from 2020, 2021 and 2023 Report of the Provincial Auditor – Volume 2, respectively.					
Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit	Page	Current Status	Actions Taken to Implement since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>New Recommendation</b></p> <p>1. We recommend the All Nations’ Healing Hospital Inc. seek the responsible Minister’s approval required by law when undertaking capital projects valued at greater than \$100,000.</p>	33	Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Nations’ Healing Hospital Inc. obtained permission from the Minister of Health as required per legislation in 2023-24.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented
<p><b>Outstanding Recommendation</b></p> <p>2. We recommend the Raymore Community Health and Social Centre record and amortize the cost of its tangible capital assets in its financial statements.</p>	43	Implemented (Provincial Auditor 2021 Volume 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raymore Community Health and Social Centre appropriately recorded and amortized the cost of its tangible capital assets (e.g., equipment, furniture) in its financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - Implemented</li> </ul>	N/A - Implemented