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Australia launches real-time prescription monitoring system

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New real time prescription monitoring system improves patient safety

The Australian government has launched Canberra Script, a real time prescription monitoring system to enable medical professionals to assess patients' drug history before prescribing and dispensing some medications.

Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith said Canberra Script is being implemented to help address the increasing harms caused by some prescription medications particularly opioids.

"Canberra Script will support medical professionals to make safe and effective prescription decisions," Minister Stephen-Smith said.

"The system will also enable healthcare professionals to better identify and support patients who may be at risk of harm or dependency. Canberrans should be reassured that the system will not disadvantage patients who have a clinical need for a medicine."

Canberra Script will integrate with the new national Real Time Prescription Monitoring system being implemented across Australia. In the Territory, Canberra Script will replace the Drugs and Poisons Information System Online Remote Access (known as DORA), which has operated since 2019.