

WHAT IS THE PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ACT?

The Personal Health Information Act or PHIA is a new provincial law. It aims to balance your right for your personal health information to be protected, with the need of health professionals to use your information to provide you with proper care and treatment.

WHAT IS PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION?

Personal health information is information about you that is related to your health or health care. It may include:

- your name;
- address;
- date of birth;
- health history;
- provincial health card number;
- other information about tests, procedures and care you received.

As your health services team, we collect personal health information directly from you (or the person acting on your behalf). Sometimes, we ask other health professionals or health care organizations involved in your health care for your personal health information to help us provide you care. We may collect personal health information from other sources, if we have your permission to do so, or if the law allows us to do so even without your permission. Personal health information may be collected and stored in different ways, including electronic files, on paper charts and images like x-rays. We collect personal health information as needed to treat you and assist with your health care.

WHO CAN SEE OR USE YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION?

- individuals involved in your care and treatment, including health professions students (ex: student doctors and nurses), on a need to know basis or if the law allows us to do so even without your permission (for example, we are required by law to report things like immunizations, child abuse, elder abuse)
- individuals who need the information to get payment for your health care
- anyone who can legally act on your behalf
- specified organizations who have a legal right to see the information in certain situations

HOW DOES PHIA PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION?

As your health services team, we have policies and practices to protect your personal health information. We will:

- properly collect, use, share, keep and destroy your personal health information following the rules in PHIA
- have a privacy contact person who can answer your questions about our handling of your personal health information
- have policies to protect the privacy and security of your personal health information on paper, in electronic form, or unrecorded
- have a complaints policy for you to use if you believe that we are not following the rules in PHIA
- properly respond if the privacy of your personal health information has been breached. This may include telling you or the Privacy Review Officer.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS UNDER PHIA?

- to ask for copies of your personal health information (fees may apply);
- to ask for changes to your personal health information if the facts were not recorded correctly;
- to ask for information on who has looked at your personal health information held in electronic form;
- to ask that some or all of your personal health information not be collected by, used by, or shared with specific people or organizations involved in your care:
- to ask for a review by the Privacy Review Officer responsible for PHIA if you do not think the result of your complaint, access request, or correction request properly followed the rules in PHIA.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

This poster is a summary of your rights and our responsibilities under PHIA. There are specific exceptions to these rights and responsibilities.

If you need more information, please ask our Health Centre's PHIA contact person:

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