



SEARCH CIHI



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Privacy and Data Protection

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The protection of individual privacy, the confidentiality of records and the security of information are essential to CIHI operations. CIHI's commitment to protect privacy extends both to users of this web site as well as to the information in our databases.

[Please see CIHI's Privacy and Confidentiality brochure.](#) (PDF) 74KB

CIHI is always working to strengthen its privacy program and data protection activities. This work includes:

- Aligning CIHI's policies and practices with current standards;
- Enhancing data protection tools and activities; and
- Increasing awareness of CIHI's Privacy program.

Web Site User Privacy

CIHI does not disclose, give or sell any personal information about visitors to our site. For details on what information we collect and how we use it, see the [CIHI Web Site User Privacy Policy](#).

CIHI's Privacy Program

CIHI has a comprehensive Privacy Program in place to protect the confidentiality and security of our



data holdings. A cornerstone of this program is a set of strict principles and policies that govern how CIHI collects, stores, analyses and disseminates data. These are outlined in the documents [Privacy and Confidentiality of Health Information at CIHI: Principles and Policies for the Protection of Personal Health Information](#) and [Policy on Health Facility Identifiable Information](#). These policies have been reviewed to ensure they are aligned with Schedule 1 of the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

The Privacy Program also includes:

- A Privacy Secretariat committed to developing a culture of privacy at CIHI;
- An active Privacy, Confidentiality and Security Team that includes representation from across the organization;
- A Chief Privacy Advisor, who provides advice and counsel on privacy matters;
- Privacy and Data Protection Committee – Subcommittee of the CIHI Board of Directors
- Mandatory staff training to keep health information protection matters front and center; and
- Outreach activities to keep stakeholders advised.

CIHI is a prescribed entity for the purposes of section 45(1) of Ontario's *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* (S.O. 2004, c.3, Schedule A; Regulation 329/04, section 18) ([PHIPA, 2004](#)). This designation allows health information custodians in Ontario, such as the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, hospitals and physicians to disclose personal health information to CIHI without consent for the purposes of analysis or compiling statistical information for the planning and management of the health system.

CIHI's status as a prescribed entity carries with it the strict responsibility to have in place practices and procedures to protect the privacy of individuals whose personal health information it receives and to maintain the confidentiality of that information. The Information and Privacy Commissioner/ Ontario (IPC) must review these practices and procedures every three years. CIHI's privacy policies, practices and procedures, as set out in the document, *Privacy and Confidentiality of Health Information at CIHI: Principles and Policies for the Protection of Personal Health Information and Policies for Institution-Identifiable Information* (3rd edition, 2002) were approved by the Ontario IPC, effective October 31, 2005. The IPC report and accompanying letter can be viewed at ([Report](#)) and ([Letter](#)).

Privacy Impact Assessments

Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) document, evaluate and address the privacy impacts of programs and systems. CIHI is committed to completing PIAs on all its data holdings. The process is underway. PIAs will be posted as they are completed.

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Questions

Answers to frequently asked questions about:

- [data collection](#)

- [types of data collected](#)
- [personal information](#)
- [data protection/confidentiality](#)
- [use of information](#)

Documents

- [Privacy and Confidentiality of Health Information at CIHI: Principles and Policies for the Protection of Personal Health Information](#)
- [Policy on Health Facility Identifiable Information](#) March 2008 (PDF) 60 KB
- [Report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner/Ontario - Review of the Canadian Institute for Health Information: A Prescribed Entity under the Personal Health Information Protection Act](#)
- [Submission to The Personal Health Information Act Review Committee - Comments on Manitoba Health: "A Review of the Personal Health Information Act - Tell Us What You Think" \(April 15, 2004\)](#)
- [Submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on General Government – Ontario Bill 31: Personal Health Information Protection Act 2003 \(February 6, 2004\) \(PDF\) 150 KB](#)
- [Privacy Position Paper](#) - For Discussion Purposes, December 2000 (PDF) 191 KB
- [Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act: Questions and Answers for Health Researchers](#)
- [Brief to the British Columbia Special Legislative Committee on Information Privacy in the Private Sector](#), October 2000 (PDF) 89 KB
- [Submission to The Select Special Health Information Act Review Committee](#) (PDF) 80 KB

Data Request Forms

To make a request, complete and submit one of the following forms:

- CIHI External Information Request Form for Aggregate Data ([PDF](#) or [Word](#))
- CIHI External Information Request Form for Third Party Record Level Data ([Word](#))

Contact

privacy@cihi.ca

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