

Who can exercise the rights of the patient?

When it comes to a patient's medical information, the following individuals can exercise the rights of the patient:

- any patient 19 years and older;
- any patient under 19 if they are able to understand the consequences of their decisions;
- a patient's guardian or parent if the patient is under 19 and is not able to understand the consequences of their decisions;
- a deceased patient's personal representative, estate executor, spouse or relative;
- a patient's guardian, trustee, or legal representative;
- a patient's Power of Attorney or person named in a personal directive; and
- anyone authorized in writing by the patient when mentally competent to do so.

For more information...

Find out how HIA sets out what health service providers can and cannot do with respect to the collection, use and sharing of health information in the document, The Health Information Act: Notice of Information Collection, Use and Disclosure.

If you need more information about your rights under the HIA, please contact:

Chief Health Privacy Officer

Department of Health and Social Services
Phone: 867-767-9052
E-mail: hia@gov.nt.ca
Website: www.hss.gov.nt.ca

Under the HIA:



Personal health information cannot be collected, used, or shared if non-identifiable data will do.

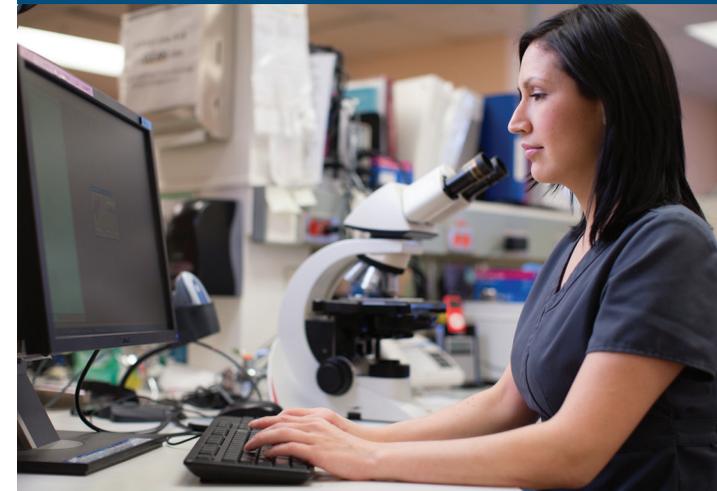


Health service providers cannot collect, use, or share more personal health information than is absolutely necessary.

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at (867) 767-9052, ext 49045.

Si vous voulez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, prenez contact avec nous au 867-767-9052, poste 49047.

Health Information Act



Protecting Your Privacy in the Health System



The GNWT is committed to protecting how your personal health information is collected, used, and shared. You have the right to have your personal health information protected. However, to make sure that you receive the best care, health providers may need to share your personal health information with one another.

The *Health Information Act* (HIA) balances the protection of your personal health information with your health provider's need to provide you with the best possible service.

How does HIA protect my information?

HIA applies to the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services; Health and Social Services Authorities; private physicians, including medical directors at mines; and pharmacists.

HIA protects all of your health information, such as your chart, x-rays, electronic information, conversations, prescriptions, and appointment bookings.

HIA sets out rules in the health system to protect the privacy of your health information. It identifies how your personal health information can be shared. It ensures that safeguards are in place to protect your information and that only the information that is needed is shared.

These safeguards include:

- allowing access only to individuals who should have access;
- having in place measures to protect the hardware, network, and software that store your information;

- having in place measures to protect your health information when it is stored electronically and when moved on removable storage devices;
- de-identification procedures to make patient information no longer identifiable. For example, when using it for research or health system planning;
- requiring that all personal health information be stored in a secure, designated area; and
- privacy breach reporting, investigations and response procedures.

What are health care providers required to do?

Under the HIA, health care providers must:

- let you know how your health information may be collected, used or shared;
- have in place standards and safeguards to protect your personal health information;
- let you know if a privacy breach occurred;
- tell you who to contact if you need to get a copy of or make a correction to your health information, or to answer questions about HIA; and
- share the least amount of your health information necessary in order to provide best care.

What is my personal health information?

Your personal health information is any information that relates to your physical or mental health that can identify you. It includes:

- your health card number;
- information about your treatment history;
- test results;
- information collected and used for determining program and service eligibility and registration; and
- billing and payment information.

What are my rights?

The HIA gives you the following rights with respect to your personal health information:

- the right to set limits on the collection, use and sharing of your personal health information;
- the right to withdraw consent for the collection, use or sharing of your personal health information;
- the right to be informed about the use and sharing of your personal health information;
- the right to access your personal health information;
- the right to request changes to your personal health information; and
- the right to choose another person to make decisions about your personal health information.