

Your Health Information and Your Privacy Rights

Who Can Use and See Your Health Information

When you come to see us, we assume you consent to our collecting, using and sharing your health information to provide you with health care, unless you tell us otherwise.

In most cases, we only use and share your information with those who are providing you with health care, such as doctors, nurses, residents and other team members. We may also provide your health information to Ontario Health to update your provincial electronic health record (EHR), in order to help facilitate and coordinate your care with other health care providers.

Sometimes we may collect, use or share your health information without your permission, including:

- to get payment for the services we provide to you
- to contact a relative or friend if you are incapacitated
- to report certain diseases to public health authorities
- when necessary to prevent serious harm to you or others
- when we suspect certain types of abuse

If you're in a health care facility such as a hospital

We may share general information about you, such as your location and general health status, with others, including your friends and family who are concerned about you, unless you tell us not to.

If you tell us about your religious or other organizational affiliation, we may give your name and location to someone from that organization to provide you with support, such as spiritual care, unless you tell us not to.

Fundraising, research, education and planning

Unless you tell us not to, we, or others working on our behalf, may use your name and address for fundraising.

Sometimes we get your permission before we collect, use or share your health information for research. However, some research projects do not require your consent under certain conditions. These research projects must be approved by a research ethics board and must have privacy safeguards in place.

We may also use your health information for educational purposes and to plan our services and may share this information with certain organizations for health system planning and management.

Your rights

You have the right to:

- ask to see and get a copy of your health record
- ask us to correct information in your record that is inaccurate or incomplete
- ask us not to collect, use or share your health information for health care purposes

Contact us if you would like to:

- ask about how to exercise your privacy rights
- request access to or correction of your health record
- make a complaint

You have the right to file a complaint with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.



Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Ontario
Commissaire à l'information et à la
protection de la vie privée de l'Ontario