
Alberta's
Health
INFORMATION
Act

Online Training

A Note on Electronic Health Records

Department of Medicine
University of Alberta

HIAA (Health Information Amendment Act)

- As well as expanding the definition of “custodian” and expanding the scope who the HIA applies to, the HIA was amended to include provisions for the Alberta Electronic Health Record (EHR) or Netcare.
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Alberta Electronic Health Record

- A clinical information network that links community physicians, pharmacists, home care, and other authorized custodians across the province.
 - Makes basic patient information available to health service providers.
 - Different people have different access to it, based on a need-to-know basis.
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- Information captured includes:

- Demographics
 - Prescribed dispensed drugs
 - Allergies
 - Immunizations
 - Lab results
 - Diagnostic imaging reports
 - Other medical reports
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Use or Disclosure?

- Viewing and sharing information via Netcare is considered a **use** of information, rather than a **disclosure**.
 - Therefore normal collection and disclosure rules do not apply in this case.
 - **However**, if the information is printed or taken out of Netcare somehow, it is considered a disclosure and the normal disclosure rules apply.
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Usage Logs

- In order to prevent and find any breaches, all electronic health records must have the ability to create and maintain logs containing (among other things):
 - Who accessed what records.
 - The date and time the record was accessed.
 - What they did while they accessed the record (any edits, deletions, etc.)
 - The patient can request to know who accessed his/her health information via Netcare.
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The Expressed Wishes of the Patient

- When making information available on Netcare, the custodian must consider the expressed wishes of the patient.
 - The patient may request a *mask* to be put on their record, so that their information will not be automatically displayed to everybody.
 - When a provider needs to view the record to provide health care, they must first provide a reason for unmasking the record, and a log is kept of their activities.
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THE END!

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Health Information Act Online Training.

Please remember to complete the ***Confirmation of Letter of Online HIA Training*** and forward it to Human Resources.

Questions?

The Department of Medicine is happy to answer any questions that you may have about the Health Information Act.

On the Department of Medicine website under the “For Faculty and Staff” menu, there is a Health Information Act section. Included in this section is a Submit a Question resource. If you have a question with regards to Alberta's Health Information Act, fill out the form and we will get back to you with an answer as soon as possible.
