

Website Content:

Patient Privacy under PHIPA

PURPOSE:

The Family Health Team is dedicated to quality patient care and improving the health status of our communities. A patient's right to privacy is balanced with the Family Health Team's obligation to provide effective health care treatment.

POLICY:

The Family Health Team abides by the Health Information Protection Act (November 2004), comprised of both the Personal Health Information Protection Act (2004) and the Quality of Care Information Protection Act (2004).

The Family Health Team is responsible for the personal information and personal health information under its control and will in good faith endeavour to ensure that all personal information will be kept private, confidential and secure.

Family Health Team employees are accountable for maintaining confidentiality and privacy of all information collected, accessed or disclosed during and after their employment or professional contact.

All information collected, used, accessed or disclosed is protected as referred to in the following interrelated principles.

Principle 1 – Accountability for Personal Information

The CBFHT is responsible for any personal information in its possession including information that has been transferred to a third-party for processing.

The Privacy Officer oversees the compliance to the policy, related procedures and legislation.

Principle 2 - Identifying Purposes for Collection of Personal Information

As your personal information is being collected, CBFHT will identify the purpose for which it is collected. The primary purposes include: delivery of direct patient care; administration of the health care system; research and statistics; or to comply with legal and regulatory requirements.

Principle 3 - Consent for the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Your knowledge and consent are required for the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, except where inappropriate (guardianship; power of attorney).

Principle 4 - Limiting Collection of Personal Information

Only information that is needed for the purposes of the Family Health Team will be collected. Information will be collected by fair and lawful means.

Principle 5 - Limiting Use, Disclosure and Retention of Personal Information

Personal information will not be used or disclosed for purposes other than for those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual or as required by law. Personal information will be retained only as long as necessary for fulfillment of those purposes and in compliance with legislation.

Principle 6 - Ensuring Accuracy of Personal Information

Personal information will be as accurate, complete and up-to-date as is necessary for the purposes for which it is to be used.

Principle 7 - Ensuring Safeguards for Personal Information

Security safeguards appropriate to the sensitivity of the information will be used to protect personal information.

Principle 8 - Openness about Personal Information Policies and Practices

Information regarding the FHT's policies and practices relating to the management of personal information are available upon request.

Principle 9 - Individual Access to their own Personal Information

An individual may request access to their personal health information. An individual may challenge the accuracy and completeness of the information and have it amended as appropriate.

Principle 10 - Challenging Compliance with CBFHT's Privacy Policies and Practices

An individual may direct a challenge concerning compliance with the above principles to the Chief Privacy Officer.