

## AHS & Your Health Information

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is authorized to collect your health information by Section 20 of the Health Information Act (HIA).

### What AHS collects:

The health information that AHS collects will depend on the service(s) provided to you, and may include: your name, date of birth, provincial health care number, address, health history, and any other information needed to provide the health services you require and receive.

Health information will be collected directly from you except in situations when the HIA allows AHS to collect this information from someone else (for example, if you are unconscious we may ask an individual accompanying you for information needed to provide you treatment and care).

### How AHS uses and disclosure of your health information:

Your health information will only be used within AHS and shared outside of AHS (i.e. disclosed) as allowed by the HIA. Approved uses within AHS may include: providing health services to you, determining your eligibility to receive health services, health services provider education, or for internal management purposes (e.g. auditing the quality of health services provided in AHS facilities).

AHS will ask for your consent to share your health information outside of AHS (i.e. disclose) except where the HIA allows AHS to share the health information without your consent. Examples of when AHS may share your health information outside of AHS without consent include: for the purpose ongoing treatment and care (including referrals to labs or specialists), for limited necessary disclosures to your family or other support persons, and for approved research purposes.

Your health information will always be used and disclosed in the least identifiable way suitable to the use or disclosure.

### How AHS protects your information:

All AHS staff, physicians, students, residents, volunteers and contractors providing services in AHS facilities are required to complete mandatory privacy and information security training and to follow the HIA and AHS privacy and information security policies.

AHS limits access to your health information to those people who are providing you health services or who are using your information in a way allowed by the HIA. AHS has put controls, policies and procedures in place (including proactive audits of access) to prevent any unauthorized access, use or disclosure of your health information.

### Your rights:

The HIA gives you the right to

- Access your health information (through established processes)
- Request a correction or amendment of your health information (with some restrictions)
- Know why your health information is collected, used and disclosed
- Express your wishes regarding the confidentiality and disclosure of your health information
- Request that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner conduct an independent review of any decisions made by AHS regarding the collection, use or disclosure of your health information, within 60 days of being notified of an AHS decision related to the correction or amendment of your health information.

### Who to contact for questions:

Chief Privacy Officer  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Tower  
Seventh Street Plaza  
10030 -107 Street NW  
Edmonton AB T5J 3E4

Phone: 1-877-476-9874  
Email: [privacy@ahs.ca](mailto:privacy@ahs.ca)

