



### 3: Obtain Consent

Consent for collection, use and disclosure of personal information for direct health care purposes in the province operates primarily on an implied consent model. Individuals who provide health services to a patient (e.g., specialists, referring physicians, lab technologists) are part of the patient’s “circle of care” and can access, use, disclose, and retain patient information for the purposes of ongoing care and treatment. Express consent from a patient is required when identifiable personal information is intended to be collected, used, or disclosed outside of the circle of care or for secondary purposes such as research. Here is a checklist to guide you:

- How do we share personal information outside the circle of care?
- How do we obtain consent from patients to use their personal information for secondary purposes?
- How do we obtain consent from a legal guardian (where applicable) to use personal information for the individual in their care?
- How do we obtain consent from a power of attorney (where applicable) to use personal information for the individual they act for?
- Are consent forms easy to find?
- Is language in consent forms clear and straightforward?
- How do we obtain consent in person?
- How do we obtain consent by email while safeguarding the patient’s personal information?
- How do we obtain consent by mail while safeguarding the patient’s personal information?
- How do we obtain consent over the phone while safeguarding the patient’s personal information?

Review all circumstances where personal information is collected, used or disclosed. Here is a checklist to guide you:

- Obtain informed consent from the individual whose information is collected, used or disclosed
- Explain how the information will be used and with whom it will be shared
- Ensure employees are trained to obtain express consent when it is required

See [Consent and Masking Options](#)