



- Welcome to a webinar about understanding BC's Personal Information Protection Act or PIPA for short.
- If you're a physician or MOA working in a private practice, this webinar is for you.

WHY MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS?

- Consider what could happen if records weren't accurate
- The impact could
 - negatively affect decisions about care and treatment of a patient?
 - fail to recognize eligibility for reduced healthcare costs?
 - impact eligibility for benefits of an employee?
 - cause a breach?
 - how third parties you rely on use it?
- Any inaccurate record could affect decisions about an individual



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WHY MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS?

- Consider what could happen if records weren't accurate
- There can be some serious impacts.
 - an incorrect medical record could result in the wrong decision about patient care like prescribing medication a patient is allergic to or misdiagnosing their condition
 - an incorrect birthdate could result in eligibility issues for patients
 - and employees
 - an incorrect email address could mean sensitive information is sent to the wrong person
 - incorrect data sent to a third party you rely on for processing could result in a number of untold errors
- Any inaccurate record can affect decisions about an individual

WHERE DO YOU START?

- Make a list of personal information required for each purpose
- Indicate how it is
 - dated
 - stored
 - kept up to date
- Establish policies and procedures
 - accuracy
 - completeness
 - timeliness
- Train employees



WHERE DO YOU START?

- Make a list of personal information required for each purpose
- Indicate how it is
 - dated
 - stored and
 - kept up to date
- Establish policies and procedures so personal information will be
 - accurate
 - complete through use of forms and
 - updated quickly with periodic verification

Train employees to follow established procedures



Accurate records can prevent inaccurate diagnoses that could be far worse than this!

PIPA requires that an organization make reasonable efforts to ensure the personal information it collects is accurate and complete.

An individual has the right to ask the organization to correct an error or omission in their personal information.

The organization must either make the correction or make an annotation as to why the correction wasn't made.

PAPER RECORDS

- Dated, timed and signed or initialed by the author (original entries and alterations)
- Legible
- Permanent ink
- Clear unabbreviated language
- Created with the involvement of the patient
- Readable if photocopied or faxed
- Altered so original information is still legible
- Annotated with explanations if changes requested were not made
- In consecutive order by date



Here are some general rules for paper records. They should be

- dated, timed and signed or initialed by the author for both original entries and alterations
- legible,
- written using permanent ink,
- in clear unabbreviated language,
- created with the involvement of the patient whenever possible or practical and
- readable if photocopied or faxed

When changes are made,

- original information still needs to be legible and
- annotations should explain why any requested changes were not made

And finally, they should be

- in consecutive order by date

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS (EMR)

- Generally the same rules apply
- Additional rules include that they
 - Cannot be modified or deleted so as to preserve history
 - Should include other medical observations
- Features need to include ability to
 - Amendments
 - Annotations
 - Electronic or paper copy



- Generally the same rules apply to paper and electronic medical records
 - One obvious difference is that instead of a signature or initial, the person updating the record needs to be indicated
- Additional rules include that they
 - cannot be modified or deleted so as to preserve history
 - should include other medical observations such as examinations, tests, diagnoses, prognoses, prescriptions, and other treatments
- EMR features need to include the ability to:
 - make amendments without changing original information
 - make annotations and
 - generate an electronic or paper copy of the record that includes the full history

Whether on paper or electronic, any changes to information you may have shared with third parties should be communicated to them as well

WEBINAR RESOURCES

- College Standards and Guidelines
<https://www.cpsbc.ca/for-physicians/standards-guidelines>
- Doctors of BC Privacy Toolkit and webinar notes (PDF)
<https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/privacy-toolkit-webinars>
- Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner for BC:
 - Guide to PIPA
 - Privacy Breach Tools and Resources
 - Accountability Tips
 - Getting Accountability Right
 - Self-Assessment Tool for Securing Personal Information
 - Cloud Computing Guidelines
 - Guidance Document: Information Sharing Agreements<https://www.oipc.bc.ca/guidance/guidance-documents/>



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Links to these Resources are in a PDF document on the Webinars page of the Privacy Toolkit

- College Standards and Guidelines
- Doctors of BC Privacy Toolkit and webinar notes
- and Privacy Commissioner guides, tips and resources



PIPA SHORTS

BC's Personal Information Protection Act

QUESTIONS?
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**doctors
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British Columbia Medical Association



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Let us know if you have any questions about complying with PIPA