

Ministry of Health

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[e-Approvals-172-2024-372]

January 22, 2025

Dr. Catherine Zahn
Chair, Board of Directors
Ontario Health
525 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2L3

Re: Minister Direction under s. 55.10 PHIPA for disclosure of personal health information from the Provincial Client Registry to Ontario Health's registry of cardiac and vascular services

Dear Dr. Zahn,

Thank you for submitting your request to the Ministry of Health on November 30, 2023 under s. 55.10 of the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* (PHIPA). Your request was submitted to the Ontario Health Data Council (OHDC), in its capacity as the Advisory Committee under s. 55.11, to review and make recommendations in accordance with s. 55.10 of PHIPA. Specifically, OH, as a prescribed person under s. 39(1)(c) of PHIPA, is requesting that the Minister direct the disclosure of certain personal health information (PHI) from the provincial Electronic Health Record's Provincial Client Registry for the purposes of facilitating or improving the provision of health care through the registry of cardiac and vascular services that is operated by Ontario Health (OH).

As a prescribed person under PHIPA, OH helps to plan, coordinate, implement, and evaluate cardiovascular care, and is responsible for its registry of cardiac and vascular services. This registry is used by OH to maintain a provincial wait times system for cardiac care services, which is used by health care providers to facilitate timely, equitable, and appropriate patient access to cardiac services.

In this role, OH has identified an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of OH-CorHealth's operations by using certain data from the Provincial Client Registry in the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR). This approach would allow OH-CorHealth to access more complete and accurate data to support the management of waitlists for cardiac services, thereby supporting the delivery of more-efficient, higher-quality patient care.

The OHDC has reviewed this request in its capacity as the Minister's Advisory Committee under s. 55.11 of PHIPA, and is satisfied that the core requirements under s. 55.10 have been met, namely:

- The request has been submitted by a prescribed person;
- The disclosure of PHI would be in accordance with PHIPA s. 39(1)(c);
- Other information (e.g., de-identified data) would not serve the purpose of the disclosure;
- The disclosure would not contain more PHI than is reasonably necessary to meet the intended purpose.

The OHDC further noted that this course of action supports a more modern, efficient approach to data governance and is well-aligned with the long-term recommendations of the OHDC to better use health data for the public good. The OHDC has thus recommended that I approve OH's request for me to direct the disclosure of the PHI set out in Appendix A attached hereto (Relevant PHI) from the Provincial Client Registry in the EHR to OH's registry of cardiac and vascular services; and to review this request on an annual basis in consultation with the Advisory Committee in accordance with s. 55.10.

I have considered OH's request as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and I have determined that: (i) the request was submitted by OH in its capacity as a prescribed person, (ii) the requested PHI was provided by more than one health information custodian; (iii) the disclosure of the Relevant PHI would be in accordance with subsection 39(1)(c) of PHIPA; and (iv) in accordance with subsections 55.10(5) and (6) of PHIPA, I am satisfied that no other information would serve the purpose of the disclosure and that the disclosure would not contain more PHI than is reasonably necessary to meet that purpose.

Accordingly, pursuant to my authority under s. 55.10 of PHIPA, for a period of one year from the date of this letter, I am directing the disclosure of the Relevant PHI from the Provincial Client Registry in the EHR, by OH in its capacity as the prescribed organization, to OH's registry of cardiac and vascular services, in OH's capacity as a prescribed person, in accordance with the conditions specified in Appendix A attached hereto.

If OH, in its capacity as a prescribed person, wishes for the Direction to be extended beyond the initial one-year period, the request must be resubmitted to me on an annual basis for review and reconsideration, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, in accordance with s. 55.10.

Thank you for your ongoing work on OH's registry of cardiac and vascular services.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

- c: Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Anna Greenberg, Executive Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer, Ontario Health
Stephanie Lockert, Chief, Strategy, Planning, Privacy and Analytics, Ontario Health
Sylvie Gaskin, Chief Privacy Officer, Ontario Health
Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Digital and Analytics Strategy Division,
Ministry of Health
Paul Pirie, (A) Director, Digital Health Program Branch, Digital and Analytics
Strategy Division, Ministry of Health
Christine Sham, Director, Information Management Strategy and Policy Branch, Digital
and Analytics Strategy Division, Ministry of Health

APPENDIX A

Ontario Health (OH), in its capacity as the prescribed organization under PHIPA, shall, in accordance with this Minister's direction, disclose the Relevant PHI as listed below to OH in its capacity as a prescribed person, for the purposes of facilitating or improving the provision of health care through its registry of cardiac and vascular services.

Relevant PHI

i. Provincial Client Registry (PCR) Source:

1. PCR Enterprise Record Number

ii. Patient Demographics:

1. First Name
2. Last Name
3. Middle Name
4. Date of Birth
5. Date of Death
6. Death Indicator
7. Gender
8. Health Card Number (HCN)
9. HCN Issuing Authority
10. Medical Record Number(s) (MRN)
11. MRN Issuing Authority
12. Phone Type (Home)
13. Phone Number (Home)
14. Phone Type (Work)
15. Phone Number (Work)
16. Phone Type (Mobile)
17. Phone Number (Work)
18. Address Type (Home)
 - a. Street Address 1
 - b. Street Address 2
 - c. City
 - d. Country Code
 - e. Postal Code
 - f. Province
19. Address (Mailing)
 - a. Address Type
 - b. Street Address 1
 - c. Street Address 2
 - d. City
 - e. Country Code
 - f. Postal Code
 - g. Province
20. Address Type (Temporary)
 - a. Street Address 1
 - b. Street Address 2

- c. City
- d. Country Code
- e. Postal Code
- f. Province

Conditions

OH, in its capacity as the prescribed organization, shall disclose the Relevant PHI listed above subject to the conditions in this letter and in accordance with the following additional conditions:

- a) Relevant PHI from the PCR shall be disclosed to OH's registry of cardiac and vascular services using OH's shared, secure technology infrastructure that adheres to OH's set of information security standards, policies and practices.
- b) Relevant PHI from the PCR shall be disclosed to OH's registry of cardiac and vascular services as part of every patient/client search conducted by users of this registry.