

Caring for Your Information

Notice to our Patients, Clients and Residents

Collecting, Using and Sharing Your Personal Information

When you are receiving care, treatment and services at Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, our staff and physicians will collect personal information from you. Where permitted, we may ask your family, friends, or other organizations to give us information about you (e.g. copies of records, medication information or test results).

Your information may be entered into our electronic health information systems to assist authorized persons in quickly accessing pertinent information wherever you may be receiving care or services.

We collect, use and share your personal information under the primary authority of the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”). FIPPA and other legislations authorize us to use and share your personal information for these reasons:

- to identify you and keep in contact with you about your health care
- to provide ongoing care and support of care activities
- to help us plan, monitor, maintain and improve our care and services,
- for education and training (e.g. medical students) and to conduct research with consent or as permitted by law
- to know your eligibility for benefits and services and to arrange medical services billing
- to enable parties (e.g. Ministry of Health Services, Canadian Institute of Health Information) to confirm your identity, conduct planning and improvement activities, measure performance and fund healthcare
- to analyze, manage and control disease outbreaks and monitor the overall health of people
- as required by law (e.g. court order, reportable conditions) and as authorized by FIPPA

Your health information will be provided to your referring physician, other authorized health care professionals and their support staff, or health care agencies and facilities involved in your care to support continuous and consistent care and service. In some cases, these health professionals may look up your health information in our electronic health information systems in order to provide you with direct or supporting services.

If you are a patient in the hospital or residential care, we will provide your family or close friends who phone and ask about you with information confirming your admission and location. *If you do not wish us to release this information, please inform a staff member within Patient Registration or within your care area.*

eHealth and Your Information

eHealth is a provincial initiative that allows certain aspects of your health information to be accessed by authorized health care professionals throughout the province and not just within a particular region. Each Health Authority sends specific health information to a province-wide electronic information system, where it is stored with strict protections and used for limited and authorized purposes. For more information about eHealth, please visit the government eHealth website at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ehealth>.

For more information

If you have any questions about this Notice and the protection of your personal information please go to www.vch.ca, search for “your privacy” and click on the link provided or contact the VCH Information Privacy Office at (604) 875.5568 or email: privacy@vch.ca.