

Health Information Protection Regulations Amendment FACT SHEET

Since the first community efforts to establish local hospitals, contributions by individuals, service groups and communities have been instrumental in the construction and equipping of health facilities in Saskatchewan.

Over many decades, the ownership and administration of most hospitals has shifted, first to health districts and then to health regions (regional health authorities). Many Saskatchewan health regions, affiliated hospitals and approved fundraising foundations traditionally had access to contact information of hospital patients, for inclusion in fundraising campaigns.

This practice has not been allowed under regulations that came into effect in July 2005, two years after the proclamation of *The Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA).

The Lieutenant Governor has signed an amendment to the *Health Information Protection Regulations* that allows for the limited use of contact information of former hospital patients for fundraising purposes. No information will be included about what hospital services were received.

The information is only available to health regions, their affiliated organizations and fundraising health foundations with which they have a formal agreement.

In recognition of the privacy rights of Saskatchewan residents, anyone who receives hospital services will be able to opt out of allowing their name and address to be shared for fundraising purposes. As well, people who are considered vulnerable will not be included (for example, residents of provincial long-term care facilities).

There will be a 60-day waiting period after hospital services are received before the information can be used. The person's name and address will not be shared for fundraising in another health region, or with another health foundation.

If a patient receives hospital services at a second hospital, they will again be able to choose not to have their information used for fundraising purposes.

The Ministry of Health has consulted for several years with stakeholders about privacy regulations and their impact on fundraising.

All other health information privacy protections remain unchanged. Anyone concerned about their privacy can contact their health region privacy officer.

There is also information available online about HIPA and the regulations:

www.health.gov.sk.ca/health-information-protection-act