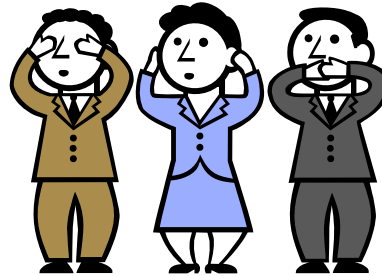


Capital District Health Authority

Access to Personal Information in Capital Health



May 7, 2008



Legal Services
Capital Health

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

What is Privacy?

Right of the individual to control information about one's self.

Includes:

- Right to determine with whom information shared;
- Control over collection, use and disclosure, access and retention concerning their PI

Capital Health – Personal Information

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Capital Health Information:

- *NS Hospitals Act (section 71) – Personal Health Information*
- *NS Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP)*

NS Hospitals Act

- Shift in ownership of PHI – patients own their PHI not health authority, hospital or facility
- Patients right to privacy of their PHI outweighs the third party's right to access
- Patients get access to their own personal health information (PHI)

NS Hospitals Act (continued)

- General information can be released (*status*)
- Release for ongoing care, family physician, hospital to hospital
- Everything else requires patient consent, subpoena/search warrant, or as authorized by law (i.e., Child and Adult protection, communicable diseases, Ministerial Authorization)

NS Hospitals Act (continued)

The balancing factor for releasing personal health information is patient consent

Access to Business Information

- Public website has evolved to include information that was previously not accessible:
 - Operational Measures
 - Daily Bed Review
 - ER Wait Times
 - Mental Health Wait Times
- Capital Health is striving to be more accountable, responsive and transparent
- Information receptacle – moving towards an engagement perspective – change in philosophy and structure

Access to Business Information

- The new model for our public website will include a section on our building and hospitals and will discuss openly some of the associated costs and reports such as air quality and engineering
- Plans to include Capital Health Policies and Procedures on the Public Web Site
- Discussions are ongoing to posting monthly financial statements on the public site

PRIVACY OFFICER:

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