

FOR RELEASE
August 31, 2016

Health Information Privacy and Management Act now in force

WHITEHORSE—Yukon’s modern and comprehensive *Health Information Privacy and Management Act* comes into force today. The act balances an individual’s right to have their personal health information protected with the need of health care providers to have access to patients’ health information to provide the best possible care.

“We are pleased that this act is now in force,” Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. “This act and regulations set rules and standardize how personal health information is protected and shared among health professionals.”

The act was passed in December 2013. The regulations were then drafted, and members of the public and professional health organizations provided feedback.

The *Health Information Privacy and Management Act* also lays the framework for electronic health information systems, including the prescription drug information system that the Department of Health and Social Services is currently developing. This new technology will enhance patient safety and provide better health care delivery to Yukoners.

The act and accompanying regulations also set out maximum fees that can be charged and a maximum length of time that health professionals can take to provide individuals with a copy of their health records. In addition, health professionals identified in the regulations must complete mandatory privacy training and follow consistent rules for handling and reporting breaches of health information.

“To help educate Yukoners on their rights under *Health Information Privacy and Management Act* we are launching an education and awareness campaign,” Nixon added. “This act affects all Yukoners so we encourage everyone to learn about their rights under this new legislation.”

Learn more:
Health Information Privacy and Management Act

-30-

Contact:

Michael Edwards
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7910
michael.edwards@gov.yk.ca

Michelle Boleen
Communications, Health and Social Services
867-456-6145
michelle.boleen@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-306



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.