



Addendum to the January 2013 Privacy Impact Assessment of the Primary Health Care Voluntary Reporting System

Cessation of De-identified Data Collection

January 2014 (Updated September 2018)



Canadian Institute
for Health Information

Institut canadien
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Voluntary Reporting System: Cessation of Data Collection, January 2014 (Updated Sept 2018)

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Ottawa – Sept 2018

Addendum to the January 2013 Privacy Impact Assessment of the Primary Health Care Voluntary Reporting System: Cessation of De-identified Data Collection, January 2014 (Updated September 2018)

Since 2009, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has worked with participating primary health care (PHC) clinicians across Canada to collect and analyze a subset of electronic medical record (EMR) data in a privacy-sensitive manner using the prototype PHC Voluntary Reporting System (PHC VRS). CIHI collected the data in a de-identified format. Participating clinicians received comparative quality feedback reports on quality indicators, utilization and practice profiles. The PHC VRS provided tremendous insight into the need for a priority subset of PHC EMR data standards. The PHC VRS has been a valuable, informative tool for CIHI and the PHC sector that will help inform the evolution of the EMR landscape across Canada.

Currently, most EMR data is unstructured and in free-text format, which makes data extraction and analysis labour-intensive and unsustainable on a large scale. As a result, CIHI ceased collecting EMR data effective December 1, 2013. That said, PHC information continues to be a priority for CIHI, and CIHI will continue to collaborate with stakeholders on the adoption of the PHC EMR Content Standard (PHC EMR CS) which facilitates consistent data collection; the PHC EMR CS priority subset and clinician-friendly pick-lists accelerate adoption of the standards across Canada. Implementing the standard at the point of care will increase the PHC data available to support quality improvement and health system management.

In support of this work, CIHI intends to continue using the PHC VRS data to inform the evolution of the PHC EMR CS, and may CIHI use the data for analytical purposes. The use, disclosure, retention and destruction of PHC VRS data currently held by CIHI continue to be governed by its Privacy Policy, 2010 and the agreements under which the data was originally collected. Per the Privacy Policy, 2010, CIHI will retain the data until such time as it is no longer needed for the above purposes; at that time, CIHI will securely destroy it. CIHI will update this addendum as required to reflect any decisions made around the retention of the data.ⁱ

Additionally, CIHI will continue to work with partners on Canadian and international PHC data sources, including the Canadian Community Health Survey and The Commonwealth Fund's survey. CIHI will also continue to use survey, administrative and billing data to produce indicators and analytical reports that improve our understanding of and give insight to PHC in Canada.

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