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**Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
of the
Canadian MIS Database (CMDB)**

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Introduction and Overview: the CMDB

- Formerly known as the Annual Hospital Survey, the Canadian MIS Database (CMDB) contains financial and statistical information primarily on hospitals with limited data on regional health authorities across Canada.¹

Description of the CMDB

1. General Goals of the CMDB

The purpose of CMDB is to provide data on Canada's hospitals to support:

- CIHI's mandate from federal, provincial, and territorial Ministries of Health
- Evaluation of health services
- System of National Accounts maintained by Statistics Canada
- Analysis of health expenditures
- International comparisons
- Comparative reporting at the hospital, regional, provincial/territorial and national levels.²

2. Need for the CMDB

The CMDB annual report examines hospital performance across numerous financial and statistical measures for most recent reporting year. It includes issues such as hospital closures/mergers, liquidity, capital expenditure, and unit cost performance. The report also examines measures that link the CMDB to CIHI's Discharge Abstract Database.³

3. Current and Intended Scope of the CMDB

"In accordance with the shift towards integrated service delivery models, the long-term objective of the CMDB is to cover all health services. In the short term, however, the CMDB is focused on hospitals."⁴ Future years data will include community and social services starting with home care in 2004-2005.

¹ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=spend_canmis_e

² http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=spend_canmis_e

³ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=AR_150_E

⁴ CIHI, "Canadian MIS Database Data Submission Specifications" (Revised, September, 2002), p. 1.

Data Collection for the CMDB

4. Statutory Authorities for the Collection, Use, and Disclosure of Information for the CMDB

Since CMDB is not collecting personal information, the usual range of data protection laws have no relevance.

5. Sources of Data for the CMDB

“Data is submitted to the Canadian MIS Database (CMDB) by hospitals and regional health authorities across Canada. The information in this survey consists of financial data and non-financial statistical data generally contained in each hospital’s/region’s general ledger system.”⁵

In provinces where a central database is maintained, the database is populated through a data transfer from the ministry of health. In other provinces, individual facilities/regional health authorities are surveyed.⁶

6. Information Collected for the CMDB

The database contains financial data, such as expenditures by functional area. It also includes statistical information such as the number of earned hours, outpatient visits, and beds staffed and in operation. This is based on the account structure contained in the Guidelines for Management Information Systems in Canadian Health Care Facilities.⁷

- Core components of the MIS Guidelines are:
 - a. chart of accounts
 - b. accounting guidelines
 - c. workload measurement systems
 - d. indicators
 - e. management applications
 - f. glossary of terms⁸
- The CMDB does not collect personal information.

⁵ CIHI, “Canadian MIS Database Data Submission Specifications” (Revised, September, 2002), p. 1.

⁶ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=spend_canmis_e

⁷ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=spend_canmis_e

⁸ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=mis_e

Disclosure and Use of Personal Data for the CMDB

7. Uses of the Information from the CMDB

- Data collected and reported based on the MIS Guidelines standard facilitate:
 - a. accountability reporting by managers for resource use,
 - b. development of budgets based on meaningful workload and activity projections,
 - c. more precise resource allocation, and
 - d. more informed management decisions⁹.

8. Disclosures of the Information from the CMDB

- Data disclosure is determined by CIHI's [privacy principles and policies](#). In some instances, CIHI and Statistics Canada jointly manage release of information.¹⁰
- Data disclosures: Most recent year of available data is 2000-2001. Disclosures include a complete copy of the database sent to Statistics Canada, CMDB reports including hospital financial performance indicators by Canadian health regions. Hospital financial data is also disclosed to researchers, governments, consultants, corporations and individuals in response to ad hoc requests.
- Next release – 2001-2002 (January 2004)
- Historical series:
 - 1995-1996 to 2000-2001 (available from CIHI)
 - 1932-1933 to 1993-1994 (available from [Statistics Canada](#) under the name ***Annual Return of Health Care Facilities-Hospitals***)
- Available reports: *Canadian MIS Database, Moving Toward the Reporting of Hospital Financial Performance Indicators, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001*.

⁹ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=mis_e

¹⁰ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=spend_canmis_e

- The next publication in this series, *Canadian MIS Database, Moving Toward the Reporting of Hospital Financial Performance Indicators, 1999-2000 to 2000-2001*, will be available: January 2004.¹¹

Privacy Standards: Concerns and Security Measures for the CMDB

9. Risk Management, Security Safeguards, and Disclosure Avoidance Practices

- Privacy risks are minimal for the CMDB, because the database does not collect or use personal information.
- Security risks are associated with the fact that the database represents a major data holding for CIHI and holds significant current and historical financial information on Canadian hospitals. The database has a number of CIHI standard safeguards in place to protect its sources of data, access, use and backup of the database.

Conclusions: Privacy Report Card for the CMDB

The CMDB is in full compliance with Privacy and Confidentiality of Health Information at CIHI - *Principles and Policies for the Protection of Personal Health Information and Policies for Institution-Identifiable Information (April 2002, 3rd edition)*.

Summary of Recommendations for the CMDB

12. Sources of Information for this Privacy Impact Assessment

- CIHI website, www.cihi.ca
- CIHI, *Canadian MIS Database Data Submission Specifications* (Revised, September, 2002, 12 pp.)
- CIHI, *Guidelines for Management Information Systems in Canadian Health Service Organizations*

¹¹ http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=AR_150_E