



The Health Information Protection Act (HIPA) Founding Principles

Pharmacy professionals should be aware of the founding principles of HIPA ([The Health Information Protection Act, SS 1999, c H-0.021](#)) which apply to all personal health information:

1. *Personal health information is private and shall be dealt with in a manner that respects the continuing interests of the individuals to whom it relates;*
2. *Individuals provide personal health information with the expectation of confidentiality and personal privacy;*
3. *Trustees of personal health information shall protect the confidentiality of the information and the privacy of the individuals to whom it relates;*
4. *The primary purpose of the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information is to benefit the individuals to whom it relates;*
5. *Wherever possible, the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information shall occur with the consent of the individuals to whom it relates;*
6. *Personal health information is essential to the provision of health services;*
7. *Wherever possible, personal health information shall be collected directly from the individual to whom it relates;*
8. *Personal health information shall be collected on a need-to-know basis;*
9. *Individuals shall be able to obtain access to records of their personal health information;*
10. *The security, accuracy and integrity of personal health information shall be protected;*
11. *Trustees shall be accountable to individuals with respect to the collection, use, disclosure and exercise of custody and control of personal health information;*
12. *Trustees shall be open about policies and practices with respect to the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information.*