

Diagnostic Imaging Common Service

Physical Privacy Impact Assessment Summary

Introduction

A privacy impact assessment on Diagnostic Imaging Common Services (DI Common Service) initiative was completed in March 2014 as required under Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 329/04 under the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA), and by eHealth Ontario's Personal Health Information Privacy Policy.

DI Common Services will enable the sharing and viewing of patients' diagnostic images and reports from across Ontario, to hospital and community-based health care providers anytime, anywhere.

The following is a summary of the privacy impact assessment, including a brief background on the initiative and key findings.

Background

eHealth Ontario will be receiving diagnostic imaging reports from the province's four regional diagnostic imaging repositories and making them available to authorized health care providers in Ontario. eHealth Ontario will also support hospitals and health care providers in managing consent directive and responding to requests for access and correction of records in DI Common Services.

Implementation will result in the following benefits:

- Eliminates unnecessary patient travel
- Reduces wait times and length of stay thanks to faster exam reports and clinical decisions by physicians and specialists
- Reduces duplicate and unnecessary exams
- Eliminates the need to physically transfer images or CDs to the specialist
- Eliminates unnecessary exposure to radiation

Summary of Privacy Impact Assessment

The DI Common Services initiative will enable authorized providers access to their patients' diagnostic imaging reports by way of a portal-based access channel. Regional diagnostic imaging repositories will submit diagnostic imaging reports to eHealth Ontario's central document sharing repository. The reports in the regional diagnostic imaging repositories will be indexed and stored in a centralized provincial document sharing registry and repository.

The privacy impact assessment concludes that eHealth Ontario has authority under section 6.2 of O.Reg. 329/04 to operate DI Common Services for purposes of creating and maintaining an electronic health record. eHealth Ontario will act as a PHIPA agent when providing operational support to hospitals and health care providers for consent management and assisting in responding to requests for access and correction of records.

The privacy impact assessment recommends measures that will ensure eHealth Ontario is in compliance with applicable legislation, as well as its policies, procedures and best practices.

Summary of Recommendations

The privacy impact assessment provides the following recommendations:

1. eHealth Ontario to enter into agreements with participating sites contributing to and accessing DI Common Service.
2. eHealth Ontario to finalize criteria for searching patients in DI Common Service.
3. eHealth Ontario to develop plain language description on DI Common Service and make it publicly available.
4. eHealth Ontario to finalize DI Common Services policies and applicable processes.

eHealth Ontario is currently in the process of implementing each of these recommendations.

Glossary

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| DI Common Service | Diagnostic Imaging Common Service |
| DI-R | Diagnostic Imaging Repository |
| O.Reg | Ontario Regulation |
| PHIPA | Personal Health Information Protection Act |

Contact Information

Please contact the eHealth Ontario privacy office should you have any questions about this summary:

eHealth Ontario
Privacy Office
777 Bay Street, Suite 701
Toronto Ontario M5B 2E7
Tel: (416) 946-4767
privacy@ehealthontario.on.ca

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2014, eHealth Ontario

All rights reserved

No part of this document may be reproduced in any form, including photocopying or transmission electronically to any computer, without prior written consent of eHealth Ontario. The information contained in this document is proprietary to eHealth Ontario and may not be used or disclosed except as expressly authorized in writing by eHealth Ontario.

Trademarks

Other product names mentioned in this document may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies and are hereby acknowledged.