



Privacy and Security Policies for Custodians

Information and Templates

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College of Registered Nurses of Alberta
11120 – 178 Street
Edmonton, AB T5S 1P2

Phone: 780.451.0043 (in Edmonton) or 1.800.252.9392 (Canada-wide)

Fax: 780.452.3276

Email: practice@nurses.ab.ca

Website: nurses.ab.ca



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Purpose

These policies and procedures were developed to meet the legislative requirements set out by the *Health Information Act* (HIA, 2000) and regulations. The purpose of this document is to provide information and templates that will assist the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta's (CRNA) **REGISTRANTS**¹, as **CUSTODIANS** of **HEALTH INFORMATION**, to establish policies and procedures that will facilitate their compliance with Section 63 of the HIA. The HIA definitions are included in the Glossary.

The Health Information Regulation (2001) designates who are custodians under the HIA (2000). Registrants of the CRNA are designated as custodians unless they are **AFFILIATES**. A custodian of health information must establish **written** policies and procedures relating to how they and their affiliates manage health information in their **CUSTODY** and **CONTROL**. These policies and procedures need to include a written record of the administrative, technical, and physical safeguards in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of health information.

This guide provides information and templates for the use of registrants as custodians of health information when

- developing policies and procedures for use in their practice setting;
- when completing a privacy impact assessment (PIA) submission to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC); and
- when submitting a PIA for a request to access Alberta Netcare.

Registrants need to individualize and adapt the policies and procedures in this guide to reflect their own specific organizational privacy management procedures, and to use them as part of the PIA submission to the OIPC. If a registrant has any questions about the role of a custodian, please contact a CRNA policy and practice consultant at practice@nurses.ab.ca.

¹ Words or phrases displayed in **BOLD CAPITALS** upon first mention are defined in the glossary.

Policy 1: Roles and Responsibilities

Role and Responsibility of Privacy Officer

- 1.1 Identify the individual in the practice setting who is the privacy officer for HIA (2000) matters.
- 1.2 Indicate who acts as privacy officer when the privacy officer is absent.
- 1.3 Responsibilities of the privacy officer include the following:
 - a) Monitor privacy compliance and address privacy compliance issues in the practice setting.
 - b) Ensure that all privacy policies and security procedures are developed and maintained.
 - c) Ensure that all staff, students, volunteers, and contracted personnel are aware of their duties, roles, and responsibilities under applicable privacy legislation.
 - d) Provide advice regarding the **DISCLOSURE** and non-disclosure of health information.
 - e) Respond to requests for access to health information.
 - f) Ensure proper retention and disposal of health information.
 - g) Act as a contact when dealing with the OIPC.

Responsibilities of Custodians and Affiliates

- 1.4 Protect the confidentiality of any health information that is accessible through the performance of their job responsibilities.
- 1.5 **COLLECT, USE**, and disclose health information only in the performance of their job responsibilities.
- 1.6 Read and sign off that they have read and understood the privacy policies and security procedures for the collection, use, and disclosure of health information.
- 1.7 Report privacy breaches to the privacy officer in the practice setting as per employer or organization policy.
- 1.8 All CRNA registrants must adhere to the *Privacy and Management of Health Information Standards* (CRNA, 2022).

Policy 2: Right of Access to Health Information

Informal Requests

- 2.1** A request from a client to access, correct, or amend one's own personal basic health information is handled informally. If uncertain of client identity, the client must present valid identification (e.g., driver's license or Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan card). For example, the request to correct or amend basic health information could be to change address or contact information.

Formal Requests

- 2.2** A request for access to health information which cannot be handled informally must be made in writing (see Appendix B). A request for access to health information in Alberta Netcare must be in writing. A custodian is responsible to respond to a formal request to access health information whether in a point of care information system, or Alberta Netcare.

A person may request access to another individual's information only with

- a)** that individual's written authorization, or
- b)** proof of being that individual's authorized representative.

A response to an applicant's written request must be made within 30 days of receipt of the request.

An individual may request a copy of an audit log showing who has accessed their health information.

- 2.3** A request to correct or amend information which cannot be handled informally must be made in writing (see Appendix C). A request to correct or amend information in Alberta Netcare must be in writing. A custodian is responsible to respond to a formal request to correct information whether in a point of care information system or Alberta Netcare.

An applicant may request a correction/amendment to another individual's information only if the applicant has proof of being that individual's authorized representative as set out under Section 104 of the HIA.

Procedure to request correction or amendment to information:

- a) The privacy officer, custodian, as well as appropriate staff members will determine whether the request is to be granted or refused. Custodians are not obliged to make changes based on opinions; however, they must consider the request and make a decision based on their professional judgment. The correction process must be completed within 30 days of receipt of the request for correction, unless the time has been extended in accordance with the HIA.
- b) In the case of a correction/amendment or refusal thereof, the privacy officer shall ensure that the correction/amendment has or has not been made and inform the applicant of the same in writing (see Appendix C for refusal letter).
- c) The privacy officer will advise any person to whom the information was disclosed in the preceding year that a correction or amendment was made. The only exception being where the custodian believes the applicant will not be harmed if notification is not provided; and the applicant agrees.
- d) If the request is refused and the applicant elects to submit a statement of disagreement as outlined on the form, the statement shall be attached (if reasonably practical) to the information that is the subject of the request for correction or amendment (see Appendix D). Any person to whom the **RECORD** has been disclosed in the year preceding the date of the request, shall receive a copy of the statement of disagreement.

2.4 Non-disclosure (in relation to an access request):

- a) a. Mandatory exceptions to disclosure: Health information **must not be disclosed** to an applicant if
 - i) it is about an individual other than the applicant, unless it was originally provided by the applicant in the context of a **HEALTH SERVICE** for the applicant (i.e., the applicant provided their family medical history to the registrant of the CRNA. For example, the applicant's record contains the statement, "My father has a history of heart disease.");
 - ii) it sets out procedures or contains results of an investigation, discipline proceeding, practice review or an inspection related to a health services provider; or
 - iii) the disclosure is prohibited by legislation.
- b) Discretionary exceptions to disclosure: Health information may not be disclosed to the applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to
 - i) result in immediate and grave harm to the applicant's mental or physical health or safety;
 - ii) threaten the health or safety of another individual or the public; or

- iii) pose a threat to public safety
 - leading to the identification of a person who provided health information in confidence, or
 - being expected to prejudice the use or results of audits, diagnostic tests, or assessments.
- 2.5** If health information is partly disclosed, the excepted information will be removed (severed) from the record prior to the record being disclosed to the applicant. The applicant will be advised that information was severed and under what sections of the HIA (2000) the exceptions were made. The applicant will be provided with a contact name in the practice setting of who can answer questions about the severing decisions.
- 2.6** The applicant will be informed that they can ask the OIPC for a review of granting/refusing access decisions and granting/refusing correction requests.
- 2.7** If the applicant views the original record, a staff member shall be present to answer questions and maintain the integrity of the record.

Authorized Representatives

- 2.8** As set out under Section 104 of the HIA (2000), the following persons may exercise any right, including an individual's right to correct or amend their health information
- a)** if the individual is 18 years of age or older, by the individual;
 - b)** if the individual is under 18 years of age and understands the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the individual;
 - c)** if the individual is under 18 years of age but does not understand the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the guardian of the individual;
 - d)** if the individual is deceased, by the individual's personal representative (e.g., administrator or executor), if exercising the right or power relates to the administration of the individual's estate;
 - e)** e. if the individual is deceased, by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Personal Directives Act* (2000), if exercising the right or power is for the purpose of processing an insurance claim;
 - f)** if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the individual under the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* (2008), by the guardian or trustee if exercising the right or power relates to the powers and duties of the guardian or trustee;
 - g)** if an agent has been designated under a personal directive under the *Personal Directives Act* (2000), by the agent if the directive so authorizes;

- h) if a power of attorney has been granted by the individual, by the attorney if exercising the right or power relates to the powers and duties conferred by the power of attorney;
- i) by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Mental Health Act (2000)* if exercising the right or power is necessary to carry out the obligations of the nearest relative under that Act; or
- j) by any person with written authorization from the individual to act on the individual's behalf.

2.9 When an authorized representative, as set out above, seeks to access or correct/amend health information, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide documentation to demonstrate the representative is the individual's Authorized Representative.

2.10 Staff will carefully review documentation provided by the applicant to ensure they have authority to act on behalf of the individual and, where appropriate, will keep a copy of such documentation.

2.11 Every reasonable effort to assist the applicant and to respond openly, accurately and completely shall be made. This includes providing an explanation of any term, code, or abbreviation used in the record.

Policy 3: Information Handling and Security

Administrative Safeguards

If a custodian wishes to use the services of an **INFORMATION MANAGER** (HIA, 2000, s 66[1]), the HIA requires that the custodian enter into a written agreement (HIA s 66[2]) with an information manager in accordance with Section 7.2 of the *Health Information Regulation (2001)*.

3.1 A written record of all administrative, technical, and physical safeguards with respect to health information must be in place.

3.2 Information privacy and security policies and procedures have been developed and are updated as necessary based on the results of a regular review (e.g., yearly).

3.3 Only the least amount of information necessary for the intended purpose is collected, used, and disclosed.

3.4 Access to health information is restricted to staff who require access to the health information in order to perform their job duties.

3.5 Confidentiality and security of health information is addressed as part of the conditions of employment for new staff and is written into job descriptions and contracts.

- 3.6** Staff are monitored for compliance with privacy policies and security procedures.
- 3.7** All new staff are required to review privacy policies and security procedures, and sign off that they have read, understood and will abide by them.
- 3.8** All staff are required to attend privacy and security training sessions.
- 3.9** All staff, students, volunteers, and contracted personnel (e.g., janitors, temporary staff, etc.) are required to sign an Oath of Confidentiality (see Appendix E).
- 3.10** The following process is to be adhered to by any employees, staff, students, volunteers or contracted personnel who cease to practice, work or volunteer in the setting, or their employment has been terminated:
 - a)** All sensitive materials are to be retrieved including access control items like badges, keys, fobs or security tokens, and revocation of door and access keys and cards.
 - b)** All system related documentation is to be retrieved.
 - c)** All user accounts, passwords and alarm codes are to be terminated.
- 3.11** Health information is not shared verbally if conversations can be overheard or intercepted.
- 3.12** A PIA is to be completed and submitted to the OIPC before implementing new or making a change to an existing administrative practice or information system that is used for the collection, use and disclosure of **INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFYING** health information.
- 3.13** All privacy compliance issues and security breaches are reported to the privacy officer in the setting.
- 3.14** Health information is retained in accordance with specific records retention provisions, as set out by the CRNA in the document *Privacy and Management of Health Information Standards* (CRNA, 2022).
- 3.15** Custodians must establish sanctions that may be imposed against affiliates who breach or attempt to breach the custodian's administrative, technical, and physical safeguards with respect to health information.

Technical Safeguards

- 3.16** All electronic information system users are assigned a unique authentication credential (e.g., user name) that restricts access to health information and systems that are required for the administration of their job responsibilities.
- 3.17** Access to electronic systems is password protected.

- 3.18** Passwords are kept confidential at all times and are not to be written down, posted publicly, or shared with other staff. As a best practice it is preferred that passwords be at least 8 characters long and include at least one number and one symbol (e.g., @\$%^&).
- 3.19** Passwords are changed every 3 months.
- 3.20** Screensaver passwords are used to protect against unauthorized access if a computer is left unattended.
- 3.21** Health information sent via email over public or external networks is encrypted.
- 3.22** Information systems must be capable of creating and maintaining logs of access to client information. The log should contain the following information:
- a)** user identification associated with an access
 - b)** the name of the user and application that performs an access
 - c)** role or job function of user
 - d)** date and time of an access
 - e)** actions performed by the user (e.g., creating, viewing, editing, deleting)
 - f)** identification of the individual whose record was accessed (e.g., name, personal health number)
 - g)** name of the facility or organization at which an access is performed
 - h)** display screen number or reference
 - i)** any other information required by the Minister
- 3.23** Information systems are audited to detect unauthorized access and prevent modification or misuse of health information.
- 3.24** Audit trails are reviewed as deemed necessary by the custodian, and on an incident basis.
- 3.25** Health information is protected from unauthorized external access by a firewall.
- 3.26** Virus scanning software is installed to protect health information from unauthorized modification, loss, access, or disclosure.
- 3.27** Systems are regularly patched with critical patches being applied as soon as possible. Automatic update should be enabled for operating systems.
- 3.28** Electronic systems are backed up on a daily basis.
- 3.29** Backup information is stored in a secure, locked environment off-site.

- 3.30** Information intended for long term storage on electronic media (e.g., tape, DVD, disk) is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the data is retrievable and to migrate the data to another storage medium if necessary.
- 3.31** The custodian is responsible for authorizing and approving all software installations and alterations. Installed software is periodically reviewed, and unneeded software is removed from the system.

Physical Safeguards

- 3.32** Records, both on-site and off-site, are held and stored in an organized, safe, and secure manner.
- 3.33** Rooms and/or cabinets used to store health information are locked when not in use.
- 3.34** Records storage areas are equipped with smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems when possible.
- 3.35** The distribution of keys is strictly controlled.
- 3.36** Building premises are protected by building alarms. Alarm codes are changed as deemed necessary by the custodian.
- 3.37** Health information is not left unattended in areas to which the public has access.
- 3.38** Computer monitors are positioned so that on-screen information cannot be viewed by others.
- 3.39** Any electronic system's network server is located in a locked area.
- 3.40** Use screen protection devices to prevent individuals from viewing health information.
- 3.41** When health information is transported to another location, it is placed in a sealed envelope, marked as confidential, and directed to the attention of the authorized recipient.
- 3.42** Staff verify the identity of courier services used for the transportation of health information.
- 3.43** Fax machines are located in a secure area.
- 3.44** Pre-programmed numbers are **not used** to send fax transmissions of identifiable health information.
- 3.45** All fax transmissions are sent with a cover sheet that indicates the information being sent is confidential and requesting that the information be returned to the practice setting if sent to the wrong number.

- 3.46** Reasonable steps are taken to confirm that health information transmitted via fax is sent to a secure fax machine and to confirm that the information was received.
- 3.47** Health information in paper format is disposed of by confidential shredding.
- 3.48** Destruction is documented by listing the records/files to be destroyed, recording the date of destruction, and having an employee/staff member sign off that the destruction occurred.
- 3.49** All hardware that contains health information is securely disposed of so that all data is removed and cannot be reconstructed.

Security Breaches

- 3.50** All security breaches or privacy compliance issues are reported to the privacy officer in the practice setting.
- 3.51** The privacy officer will investigate the breach and evaluate the severity based on the degree of harm to the individuals involved, the sensitivity of the information, and the degree of intent. Additional staff will be involved in the investigation as necessary to determine the cause of the breach and to implement any corrective or disciplinary actions required.
- 3.52** The results of the investigation will be communicated to appropriate staff and corrective action will be taken.
- 3.53** Any applicable sanctions will be applied by the appropriate supervisory staff.
- 3.54** The custodian will perform an assessment of risk of harm for an individual whose health information has been lost, had unauthorized access, or been disclosed.
- 3.55** If the custodian has determined that the loss, unauthorized access or disclosure of health information has the ability to cause harm to the individual affected, the custodian is mandated to report this privacy breach to the Privacy Commissioner, the Minister of Health and the individual subject to the privacy breach (HIA, 2000, s 60.1[3] and 60.1[4]).
- 3.56** The custodian is aware of situations when it may not be appropriate to disclose a privacy breach to an individual subject to the breach and notifies the Privacy Commissioner of the decision not to give notice to the individual (HIA, 2000, s 60.1[5]).

Policy 4: Collection, Use and Disclosure of Health Information

Collection of Health Information

- 4.1** An individual's health information is collected directly from the individual who is the subject of the information, or their Authorized Representative, unless:
- a)** the individual **CONSENTS** to the indirect collection of the information,
 - b)** collection would compromise the interests of the individual, the purpose of collection, the accuracy of the information, or the safety of any other person,
 - c)** direct collection is not reasonably practicable,
 - d)** the information is collected for the purpose of compiling a family or genetic history in order to provide a health service to the individual,
 - e)** the information is collected to assess the individual's ability to participate in a program, or receive a benefit, product or health service,
 - f)** the information is collected to inform the Public Trustee or Public Guardian about clients or potential clients,
 - g)** the information is publicly available, or
 - h)** the information is disclosed in accordance with Part 5 of the HIA (the disclosure rules).
- 4.2** A poster is displayed in the practice setting to inform clients of the purpose and authority for the collection of information, and the availability of the privacy officer to answer questions or concerns (see Appendix F).

Use of Health Information

- 4.3** Health information is only used for the following purposes (referred to as Authorized Uses):
- a)** to provide health services
 - b)** to determine or verify an individual's eligibility to receive a health service
 - c)** to conduct investigations, discipline proceedings, practice reviews or inspections
 - d)** to conduct **RESEARCH** (with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee)

- e) to provide education for **HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- f) to carry out a purpose authorized or required by legislation (e.g., *Public Health Act*, and *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*)
- g) for internal management purposes, including planning, resource allocation, policy development, quality improvement/quality assurance, monitoring, audits, evaluation, reporting and to manage human resources

Disclosure of Health Information

- 4.4** The expressed wishes of the individual together with any other relevant factors are to be considered before any disclosure (HIA, 2000, s 58[2]). As a result, individuals may specify if they do not wish certain pieces of health information to be disclosed. Masking of health information in Alberta Netcare is also possible (see Section 8).
- 4.5** Any time health information is disclosed, the authority and identity of the recipient is authenticated (e.g., disclosing health information over the phone).
- 4.6** Health information may only be disclosed without consent in limited circumstances (HIA, 2000, s 35), including
- a) to another custodian, or its affiliate, for any of the Authorized Uses and in some situations to the Government of Canada or of another province or territory for the government's use for health system planning/management and health policy development;
 - b) to a person who is responsible for providing continuing care and treatment to the individual;
 - c) to family members of the individual, or a close personal friend, if the information is provided in general terms and concerns the presence, location, condition, diagnosis, progress and prognosis of the individual on the day on which the information is disclosed, unless contrary to the express request of the individual;
 - d) to contact family members or a close personal friend of the individual, if the individual is injured, ill or deceased, unless contrary to the express request of the individual;
 - e) if the individual is deceased, to the family members of the individual or a close personal friend, if the information relates to the circumstances surrounding the death of the individual or to health services recently received by the individual, unless contrary to the express request of the individual;
 - f) for the purpose of a court proceeding to which the custodian is party;
 - g) to comply with a subpoena, warrant or court order issued or made by a court, person or body having jurisdiction in Alberta;

- h)** to any person if the custodian believes, on reasonable grounds, that the disclosure would avert or minimize an imminent danger to the health or safety of any person;
- i)** if the individual lacks mental capacity to consent and, in the opinion of the custodian, disclosure is in the best interest of the individual;
- j)** to third party insurers in order to obtain or process payment and to adjudicate health product and service claims more effectively; or
- k)** to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta for the purpose of administering the Tracked Prescription Program (TPP) Alberta.

4.7 Health information may be disclosed without consent to a health professional body under Section 35(4) of the HIA (2000) for the purpose of an investigation, discipline proceeding, practice review or inspection. In such cases, the health professional body must agree in writing not to disclose the information except as authorized by its governing legislation.

4.8 Health information may be disclosed without consent to prevent or limit fraud or abuse of health services under Section 37.1(1) of the HIA (2000):

- a)** The custodian may disclose individually identifying health information referred to in policy statement 4.9 without the consent of the individual who is the subject of the information to a police service or the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General where the custodian reasonably believes:
 - i)** that the information relates to the possible commission of an offence under a statute or regulation of Alberta or Canada; and
 - ii)** that the disclosure will detect or prevent fraud or limit abuse in the use of health services.

4.9 The custodian may disclose the following information under policy statement 4.8:

- a)** the name of an individual,
- b)** the date of birth of an individual,
- c)** the personal health number of an individual,
- d)** the nature of any injury or illness of an individual,
- e)** the date on which a health service was sought or received by an individual,
- f)** the location where an individual sought or received a health service, and
- g)** the name of any drug, as defined in the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* (2000), provided to or prescribed for an individual and the date the drug was provided or prescribed.

- 4.10** If the custodian discloses health information about an individual under policy statement 4.8, the custodian may also disclose health services provider information from whom that individual sought or received health services if that information is related to the information that was disclosed.
- 4.11** Health services provider information may be disclosed under policy statement 4.10 without the consent of the health services provider who is the subject of the information.
- 4.12** Health information may be disclosed without consent to prevent or limit fraud or abuse of health services providers under Section 37(2) of the HIA (2000):
- a)** The custodian may disclose health information about an individual referred to in policy statement 4.13 without the consent of the health services provider who is the subject of the information to a police service or the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General where the custodian reasonably believes:
 - that the information relates to the possible commission of an offence under a statute or regulation of Alberta or Canada by the health services provider, and
 - that the disclosure will detect or prevent fraud or limit abuse in the provision of health services.
- 4.13** The custodian may disclose the following information under policy statement 4.12:
- a)** the name of the health services provider,
 - b)** the business address of the health services provider,
 - c)** the date on which the health services provider provided a health service,
 - d)** the description of a health service provided by the health services provider, and
 - e)** the benefits that were paid or charged in relation to a health service provided by the health services provider.
- 4.14** If the custodian discloses information under policy statement 4.12 about a health service, the custodian may also disclose health information about the individual who received that health service if that information is related to that health service.
- 4.15** Health information that identifies an individual may be disclosed under policy statement 4.14 without the consent of the individual who is the subject of the information.
- 4.16** Health information may be disclosed without consent to protect public health and safety under Section 37(3) of the HIA (2000):
- a)** The custodian may disclose individually identifying health information referred to in policy statement 4.17 without the consent of the individual who is the subject of the information to a police service or the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General where the custodian reasonably believes:

- i) that the information relates to the possible commission of an offence under a statute or regulation of Alberta or Canada, and
- ii) that the disclosure will protect the health and safety of Albertans.

4.17 The custodian may disclose the following information under policy statement 4.16:

- a) the name of an individual,
- b) the date of birth of an individual,
- c) the nature of any injury or illness of an individual,
- d) the date on which a health service was sought or received by an individual,
- e) the location where an individual sought or received a health service, or
- f) whether any samples of bodily substances were taken from an individual.

4.18 If the custodian discloses health information about an individual under policy statement 4.16, the custodian may also disclose health services provider information about a health services provider from whom that individual sought or received health services if that information is related to the information that was disclosed under policy statement 4.16.

4.19 Health services provider information may be disclosed under policy statement 4.18 without the consent of the health services provider who is the subject of the information.

4.20 As required under Section 41 of the HIA (2000), when a record containing individually identifying diagnostic, treatment and care information is disclosed without consent, the Section 41 notation form is to be completed (see Appendix G) and retained for 10 years after the disclosure. A computer notation of the information disclosure shall be recorded on the individual's record.

4.21 Unless health information is disclosed under one of the situations listed above or is disclosed directly to the individual or their Authorized Representative, consent is required.

4.22 As required under Section 42 of the HIA (2000), when any individually identifying diagnostic, treatment and care information is disclosed whether the disclosure is made with or without consent, the recipient is notified in writing of the purpose of the disclosure and the authority under which the disclosure is made (i.e., which section of the HIA allows the disclosure). This obligation to notify does not apply to disclosures to other custodians (under s 35[1][a] or s 47), or their affiliates, for any of the Authorized Uses including disclosures to prevent or limit fraud or abuse of health services (see Appendix H). This notification obligation also does not apply to disclosures made under Section 37.1, 37.2, and 37.3.

4.23 Requirements of a valid consent:

- a) Under the HIA, consent for the disclosure of health information must be in writing either on paper or electronically and must include the information found in Appendix I.

Policy 5: Information Privacy and Security in Contracting

5.1 Requirements as Custodian

- a) An HIA (2000) specific agreement or contract is completed and signed by all service providers who have access to the health information (this does not need to be a separate agreement – the HIA specific clauses could be included in a broader contract or service agreement).
- b) Until a contract detailing information privacy and security provisions is executed, the service provider is not allowed to access health information.
- c) When developing contracts with service providers who require access to health information provisions, addressing the following are incorporated as required:
 - i) Identifying the types of records provided, collected, created, or maintained in order to deliver the service.
 - ii) Specifying any applicable privacy legislation (e.g., HIA, *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* [FOIP], *Personal Information Protection Act* [PIPA], *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* [PIPEDA]).
 - iii) Identifying the custodian as having custody and control of the health information, including the responsibility and process for handling requests for access to information.
 - iv) Ensuring that the service provider meets or exceeds the standards set out in the HIA (2000) and your policies and procedures.
 - v) Specifying the audit or enforcement measures the custodian will undertake to ensure service providers comply with information privacy and security provisions outlined in contractual agreements (e.g., non-disclosure agreements, audit trails, regular review of service provider access requirements).

5.2 Service Provider's Requirements as Contractor

The service provider must

- a) ensure that the service provider's information security and privacy policies are available upon request, including any updates or revisions that occur after execution of the contract;
- b) document service provider roles and responsibilities for carrying out specific information security processes;
- c) ensure that employees of the service provider are aware of, and understand their responsibility to adhere to, all policies and procedures;
- d) agree that the service provider and employees who have access to health information must sign a specific non-disclosure agreement;
- e) agree to immediately report to the custodian breaches of confidentiality and privacy;
- f) identify disaster recovery procedures and backup or any information assets and systems in the custody of the service provider;
- g) address the retention and disposition (e.g., destruction or return) of all information assets (e.g., records, hardware, system documentation) upon termination of the contract; and
- h) agree to assist the custodian in fulfilling individuals' access requests for health information within legislated time limits, if necessary.

Policy 6: Research

- 6.1** All requests for access to personal health information for research purposes must be in writing and accompanied by documentation indicating that the research proposal was reviewed and approved by an appropriate research ethics board. Each of these boards has specific requirements for submission of an application for ethics approval.
- 6.2** The following committees and boards are designated as a research ethics board for this purpose:
- a) Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta (Cancer Committee, Clinical Trial Committee & Community Health Committee)
 - b) University of Alberta – Health Research Ethics Board
 - c) University of Calgary – Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board
- 6.3** Upon receipt of the request and a copy of the ethics approval, a decision to disclose the health information to the researcher may be made.
- 6.4** If the decision to disclose the health information is made, the researcher must agree to abide by any conditions suggested by the ethics committee or the privacy officer (including obtaining any consents for disclosure that may be required).

- 6.5** If a decision to disclose health information for research purposes is made, the researcher must enter into an agreement in which the researcher agrees to:
- a)** comply with the provisions of the HIA (2000) and any applicable regulations,
 - b)** comply with any conditions imposed regarding the use, protection, disclosure, return or disposal of the health information, if any,
 - c)** comply with any requirements to provide against identification of the subject individuals,
 - d)** use the health information only for the proposed research,
 - e)** ensure that the health information is not published in any form that could lead to the identification of any of the subject individuals involved,
 - f)** only contact individuals for additional information if the custodian has first obtained consent to being contacted for that purpose,
 - g)** allow access or inspection of the researcher's premises to ensure that the researcher is complying with the terms set out in the agreement, and
 - h)** pay any costs levied, which must not exceed the cost of providing the service to the researcher.

Policy 7: Transitory Records

- 7.1** A record will be defined as a transitory record if it falls into any of the following categories:
- a) Temporary Information:** Records required for specific activities but have no further value once the activities have been completed (e.g., phone messages, post-it notes, invitations, and some cover sheets).
 - b) Duplicates:** Exact reproductions of a master document. Note that if the duplicate records have been annotated or altered in any way, it may have become a new record that should be retained (e.g., photocopies, documents scanned into an electronic system).
 - c) Draft Documents and Working Materials:** Including source materials used in preparation of documents and earlier versions of final documents (e.g., drafts of reports, working notes or tapes).
- 7.2** Transitory records are identified and destroyed after the actions to which they relate, or immediate purposes are completed.
- 7.3** Where practical, transitory records are maintained separate from non-transitory records if they need to be retained for any length of time.

- 7.4** All confidential transitory records are kept secure and disposed of using containers or shredders designated for confidential records disposal.
- 7.5** The destruction of transitory records does not need to be documented by listing the records or having a staff member sign off the destruction. Any staff member may destroy transitory records.
- 7.6** Before destroying documents, be sure that the documents are in no way needed for future accountability, liability, or documentation purposes.

Policy 8: Alberta Electronic Health Record (Alberta Netcare)

- 8.1** Alberta Netcare is the provincial integrated health information system established to provide shared access to health information by authorized custodians and their affiliates, in a secure environment. Custodians wishing to participate in Alberta Netcare must sign an *Information Management Agreement* with Alberta Health.
- 8.2** The CRNA registrant who is a custodian, and affiliates in the practice setting, may only access and use the information available in Alberta Netcare for authorized purposes such as
 - a)** providing a health service,
 - b)** determining/verifying a person's eligibility to receive a health service, and
 - c)** carrying out any purpose set out in the *Information Exchange Protocol* (IEP) that is an authorized use under the HIA (2000).
- 8.3** The CRNA registrant who is a custodian, and affiliates in the practice setting accessing Alberta Netcare, must use their own unique user credentials for each access.
- 8.4** Each user of the Alberta Netcare must log out and close the browser before leaving the system
 - a)** the custodian will ensure all users are trained to log off their session, and
 - b)** if a user comes across an open session of Alberta Netcare, that user must alert the custodian. The custodian must take appropriate action to ensure that a similar scenario does not happen again in the future. The custodian or new user must log out and close the browser of the forgotten open session. A new session must then be initiated by the new user using their fob.
- 8.5** Masking – If an individual makes an express wish to limit their health information from being accessed, it is possible to honour such a request via masking of their health information in the Alberta Electronic Health Record (EHR), Alberta Netcare. Detailed information regarding the process for masking and related forms are available on the Alberta Netcare login page.

Policy 9: Penalties/Sanctions

- 9.1** If a policy is willfully or accidentally breached, penalties/sanctions may include disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
- 9.2** Penalties for offences to the duty to notify legislation include fines of up to \$50,000 if a custodian fails to:
- a)** take reasonable steps to maintain administrative, technical and physical safeguards that will protect against any reasonably anticipated threat or hazard to the security or integrity of health information or of loss of health information,
 - b)** report a privacy breach to the Privacy Commissioner, Minister of Health and individual (unless assessed to be mentally or physically harmful to the individual),
 - c)** assess for risk of harm from a breach considering all relevant factors and determining the need to report, and
 - d)** inform the Privacy Commissioner of a decision not to notify the individual of a breach and the reasons for that decision.

Policy 10: Distribution

- 10.1** A copy of these policies and procedures will be distributed to all staff as well as all students, volunteers, and contracted personnel in the practice setting. Currently there are _____ copies in circulation with the last date of revision being _____.
- 10.2** Following updates, previous copies will be removed and only the most current revision shall be available for circulation or reference by staff.

Policy 11: Approval

- 11.1** As the _____ (title of staff member authorized to approve or distribute policies), I have read and understood these as being current and complete.

Print name

Date

Signature

Glossary

AFFILIATE – Means “affiliate” as defined in the HIA (2000). An affiliate includes the following:

- an individual or organization employed by a custodian
- a person who performs a service for a custodian as an appointee, volunteer or student, or under a contract or agency relationship with the custodian
- a health services provider who is exercising the right to admit and treat clients at a hospital, as defined in legislation

COLLECT – Means “collect” as defined in the HIA (2000). To gather, acquire, receive or obtain health information.

CONSENT – Agreement by an individual to the disclosure of their health information. To be valid, consent “(1) must be provided in writing or electronically and must include:

- (a) an authorization for the custodian to disclose the health information specified in the consent,
- (b) the purpose for which the health information may be disclosed,
- (c) the identity of the person to whom the health information may be disclosed,
- (d) an acknowledgement that the individual providing the consent has been made aware of the reasons why the health information is needed and the risks and benefits to the individual of consenting or refusing to consent,
- (e) the date the consent is effective and the date, if any, on which the consent expires, and
- (f) a statement that the consent may be revoked at any time by the individual providing it”

(HIA, 2000, s 34).

CONTROL – The authority to exercise control over or to manage the record or information, including restricting, regulating and administering its use, disclosure and disposition.

CUSTODIAN – Means “custodian” as defined in the HIA (2000). A custodian includes the following:

- hospital boards, nursing home operators, provincial health boards
- ambulance operators, regional health authority, the Health Quality Council of Alberta, licensed pharmacies
- health-care professionals that are designated under the *Health Information Regulation* (2001)

CUSTODY – Physical possession of the health record or information.

DISCLOSURE – “Refers to the release, transmittal, exposure, revealing, showing, providing copies of, telling the contents of, or giving health information by any means to any person or organization. It includes disclosure to another custodian or to a non-custodian. A custodian making health information accessible to other custodians via the Alberta EHR does not constitute a ‘disclosure’” (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011, p. 212).

HEALTH INFORMATION – Means “health information” as defined in the HIA (2000) and refers to health information collected, used, or disclosed in relation to a health service.

HEALTH SERVICE – “Means a service that is provided to an individual for any of the following purposes:

- i. protecting, promoting or maintaining physical and mental health;
- ii. preventing illness;
- iii. diagnosing and treating illness;
- iv. rehabilitation;
- v. caring for the health needs of the ill, disabled, injured or dying,

but does not include a service excluded by the regulations”

(HIA, 2000, s 1[1][m]).

HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER – “Means an individual who provides health services” (HIA, 2000, s 1[1][n]).

INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFYING – Means “individually identifying” as defined in the HIA (2000). When used to describe health information, means that the identity of the individual who is the subject of the information can be readily determined from the information (HIA, 2000, s 1[1][p]).

INFORMATION MANAGER – “Means a person or body that

- (a) processes, stores, retrieves or disposes of health information,
- (b) in accordance with the regulations, strips, encodes or otherwise transforms individually identifying health information to create non-identifying health information, or
- (c) provides information management or information technology services in a manner that requires the use of health information

but does not include an individual employed by a custodian who performs any of the functions listed in clauses (a) to (c)”

(HIA, 2000, s 66[1]).

RECORD – Means “record” as defined in the HIA (2000). A record of health information can be in any form and includes the following:

- notes
- images
- audiovisual recordings
- x-rays
- books
- documents
- maps
- drawings
- photographs
- letters
- vouchers and papers
- any other information that is written, photographed, recorded or stored in any manner, but does not include software or any mechanism that produces records.

(HIA, 2000, s 1[1][t])

REGISTRANT(S) – Includes registered nurses (RNs), graduate nurses, certified graduate nurses, nurse practitioners (NPs), graduate nurse practitioners, and RN or NP courtesy registrants on the CRNA registry.

RESEARCH – Means “research” as defined in the HIA (2000). Research includes “academic, applied or scientific research that necessitates the use of individually identifying health information” (HIA, 2000, s 1[1][v]).

USE – Means “use” as defined in the HIA (2000). It means “to apply health information for a purpose and includes reproducing the information, but does not include disclosing the information” (HIA, 2000, s 1[1][w]). Making prescribed health information available through the Alberta EHR and accessing information through the Alberta EHR, are considered use of health information.

References

Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act, SA 2008, c A-4.2.

Alberta Health and Wellness. (2011). *Health information act: Guidelines and practices manual*. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/50877846-0fba-4dbb-a99f-eeb651533bc4/resource/3e16d527-2618-48ae-80b8-93f69973878e/download/hia-guidelines-practices-manual.pdf>

College of Registered Nurses of Alberta. (2022). *Privacy and management of health information standards*.

Health Information Act, RSA 2000, c H-5.

Health Information Regulation, Alta Reg 70/2001.

Mental Health Act, RSA 2000, c M-13.

Personal Directives Act, RSA 2000, c P-6.

Pharmacy and Drug Act, RSA 2000, c P-13.

Appendix A: Request to Access Health Information and/or Access Log

(Adapted from *Health Information Act: Guidelines and Practices*, Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011).

The information on this form is collected under Alberta's *Health Information Act* and will be used to respond to your request for health information and/or a record of who has accessed your health information in the record system.

Last Name	
First Name	
Mailing Address	
City or Town	
Province	
Postal Code	
Telephone (Business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax Number	
Email Address	
Date of Birth (d/m/y)	
Other	



Provide a description of the information you want to access, in as much detail as possible. Indicate if you also want access to records about the disclosure of your information. Be sure to give all your previous names. [If you are requesting access to another individual's information you must either: (i) be that individual's *Authorized Representative*, see below, or (ii) attach a valid Section 34 consent executed by that individual].

Please indicate if you wish to:

Receive a photocopy of the specified record

Please note that a base fee may apply. For convenience, you may enclose this fee with your request. You should be provided with an estimate of any additional costs.

View the original record, without receiving a copy

Please ask for an estimate of the fee you will pay for:

- review of the original by the CRNA registrant and/or
- supervision by the CRNA registrant or designated staff person of your review

A deposit of 50% of the fee may be required.

Signature

Date

If you are executing this *Request to Access Health Information* as an Authorized Representative, you must check the box that applies to you and provide a copy of documentation that supports your authority:

if the individual is 18 years of age or older, by the individual

if the individual is under 18 years of age and understands the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the individual



- if the individual is under 18 years of age but does not understand the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the guardian of the individual
- if the individual is deceased, by the individual's personal representative if the exercise of the right or power relates to the administration of the individual's estate
- if the individual is deceased, by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Personal Directives Act*, if exercising the right or power is for the purpose of processing an insurance claim
- if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the individual under the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, by the guardian or trustee if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties of the guardian or trustee
- if an agent has been designated under a personal directive under the *Personal Directives Act*, by the agent if the directive so authorizes
- if a power of attorney has been granted by the individual, by the attorney if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties conferred by the power of attorney
- by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Mental Health Act* if the exercise of the right or power is necessary to carry out the obligations of the nearest relative under that Act
- by any person with written authorization from the individual to act on the individual's behalf

Appendix B: Request to Correct or Amend Health Information

(Adapted from *Health Information Act: Guidelines and Practices*, Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011).

The information on this form is collected under Alberta's *Health Information Act* and will be used to respond to your request for correction or amendment.

Last Name	
First Name	
Mailing Address	
City or Town	
Province	
Postal Code	
Telephone (Business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax Number	
Email Address	
Date of Birth (d/m/y)	
Other	



Whose information do you want to correct?

- your own health information
- another individual's health information (you must be that individual's Authorized Representative, see below)

Provide a description of the information you want to correct or amend, in as much detail as possible. (Be sure to give the complete name that is in the records if it is different from the name given above. If you need more space, please attach a separate sheet of paper).

What correction or amendment do you want to make and why? (Please attach any documents that support your request.)

Signature

Date

If you are executing this *Request to Correct or Amend Health Information* as an Authorized Representative, you must **check the box** that applies to you and **provide a copy** of documentation that supports your authority:

- if the individual is 18 years of age or older, by the individual
 - if the individual is under 18 years of age and understands the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the individual



- if the individual is under 18 years of age but does not understand the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the guardian of the individual
- if the individual is deceased, by the individual's personal representative if the exercise of the right or power relates to the administration of the individual's estate
- if the individual is deceased, by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Personal Directives Act*, if exercising the right or power is for the purpose of processing an insurance claim
- if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the individual under the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, by the guardian or trustee if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties of the guardian or trustee
- if an agent has been designated under a personal directive under the *Personal Directives Act*, by the agent if the directive so authorizes
- if a power of attorney has been granted by the individual, by the attorney if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties conferred by the power of attorney
- by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the *Mental Health Act* if the exercise of the right or power is necessary to carry out the obligations of the nearest relative under that Act
- by any person with written authorization from the individual to act on the individual's behalf



Appendix C: Refusal by Custodian to Correct or Amend Health Information

The information on this form is collected under Alberta's *Health Information Act* and will be used to respond to your request for correction or amendment.

Last Name	
First Name	
Mailing Address	
City or Town	
Province	
Postal Code	
Telephone (Business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax Number	
Email Address	
Date of Birth (d/m/y)	
Other	





Description of the correction or amendment that was requested by the applicant or their Authorized Representative:

The requested correction or amendment was not made in respect of:

- a professional opinion or observation made by a health services provider about the applicant; or
- a record that was not originally created by that custodian

Additional rationale for refusal to correct or amend information is detailed below:

You may elect to do either of the following, but may not elect both,

- a.** ask for a review of this decision by the Privacy Commissioner; or
- b.** submit a statement of disagreement setting out in 500 words or less the requested correction or amendment and the applicant's reasons for disagreeing with this decision within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Signature

Date



Appendix D: Components for an Affiliate's Oath of Confidentiality

(Adapted from *Health Information Act: Guidelines and Practices*, Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011)

1. A statement, sworn (or affirmed) by the affiliate, stating:
 - a. They will uphold to the best of their ability their duties under the *Health Information Act* and the regulations, and the custodian's policies and procedures.
 - b. They will not disclose or make known any recorded or non-recorded health information of an individual except as authorized by the HIA, the HIA regulations, and the custodian's policies and procedures.
2. Space for the city, town, village, etc. where the oath is sworn (or affirmed).
3. Space for the date and signature of a witness.
4. (Optional) Place for a Commissioner for Oaths to commission the swearing (or affirming) of the oath.



CONFIDENTIALITY OATH

1. I, _____ agree that I will faithfully discharge my duties as staff, an employee, volunteer or contracted service provider in this practice setting <name of clinic/facility> and will observe and comply with all policies and procedures of the practice setting with respect to privacy, confidentiality, and security of health information.
2. Unless legally authorized to do so, I will not use or disclose health information that comes to my knowledge or possession by reason of my affiliation with the practice setting, including after I cease to be employed in this practice setting.
3. I understand that a breach of this agreement may be just cause for termination of my employment or affiliation in this practice setting.
4. I am aware that the practice setting has policies and procedures regarding the privacy, confidentiality, and security of health information and I understand that it is my responsibility to be familiar with the requirements outlined in these policies and procedures.
5. My use of Alberta Netcare and the practice setting's electronic point of service applications may be monitored to ensure appropriate confidentiality and security. Specifically, audit and access logs will be checked by the system administrator if a breach of security or privacy is suspected. The practice setting will work with the vendor to automatically generate audit logs that identify use of the system outside of office hours, same last name (of user and client record look-up), and similar monitoring criteria.
6. I understand that I can refer to the practice setting privacy officer for the details of these policies and any other information required for me to understand my obligations.

Signature

Printed Name

Signed at (Location)

Date



Appendix E: Sample Mini-poster

Collection of Health Information

We are committed to protecting the privacy of your health information and managing your health information in accordance with the *Health Information Act* (HIA, 2000).

The HIA (2000) requires us to tell you the purposes for which we collect your health information and the legal authority that allows us to collect your health information.

1. The health information we collect from you is required for the purposes of providing you diagnostic, treatment and health-care services. We may also collect your health information
 - to carry out any of the other purposes authorized under Section 27 of the HIA (2000), including, for example, quality management and the training of health professional students; or
 - if the collection is required by law.
2. We collect your health information pursuant to our legal authority under Section 20(b) of the HIA (2000).

If you have any questions about how we manage your health information, please contact our privacy officer at:

[Privacy officer's phone number, business address and email address, if applicable]



Appendix F: Section 41 Notation

Section 41 of the HIA (2000) requires a notation of the following data when a record of diagnostic, treatment and care information is disclosed without consent: (i) the recipient; (ii) the date and purpose of the disclosure; and (iii) a description of the information.

All such notations must be retained for 10 years from the date of disclosure.

In some cases, the notation may already be created and no additional form is required. For example, if a medication history is faxed, mailed or emailed to a physician, the fax cover sheet, covering letter or email message would likely already include: the physician's name (the recipient) and a dated cover note such as "Further to your request to confirm medication history for the past month" (the date, purpose, and a description).

If the entire fax is retained for 10 years, the content of the fax would also serve as a description of the information. However, in most cases only the fax cover sheet is retained. If you are unsure if your fax cover sheet, covering letter or email message includes the required data, the following form can be added to your fax, letter or email:

NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 41 OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

The attached individually identifying diagnostic, treatment and care information of _____ (name of subject individual) is being disclosed to _____ (name of recipient) by _____ (name of custodian) on _____ (date), for the following purpose(s): _____.



Appendix G: Section 42 Notification

Section 42 of the HIA (2000) requires that certain recipients be notified in writing of the following data when any form of diagnostic, treatment and care information is disclosed, regardless of consent:

- i. the purpose of the disclosure; and
- ii. the authority under which the disclosure is made.

This notification does not apply to disclosures between custodians, or their affiliates, for any of the Authorized Uses.

The following form can be given or sent to the recipient: i) separately, if the diagnostic, treatment and care information is disclosed verbally, or ii) attached to a fax, letter or email that discloses the diagnostic, treatment and care information. It lists the most common sections of the HIA under which disclosures are made and allows an “Other” category for other situations.

NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO THE S.42 OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

The individually identifying diagnostic, treatment and care information of _____
(name of subject individual) was/is disclosed:

- verbally
- in writing as attached
- in writing not attached

to _____ (name of recipient) on _____ (date), pursuant to the following provision of the *Health Information Act*:

- s.34 (with consent)
- s.35(1)(m) (to avert or minimize an imminent representative danger)
- s.35.(1)(n) (best interests of individual who lacks the mental capacity to consent)
- s.35(1)(b) (continuing treatment and care)
- s.35(1)(p) (to comply with an act or regulation of Alberta or Canada)
- s.35(1)(c) (general information to family or person believed to have a close personal relationship – not contrary to express request)
- s.35(1)(i) (subpoena, warrant or court order)
- Other _____ (cite application section of the HIA)

Note: Above are only brief descriptions of commonly applied HIA provisions, please review the HIA provisions in full for applicability.



Appendix H: Consent to the Disclosure of Health Information

SECTION 34 CONSENT PURSUANT TO THE HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

Disclosure of Health Information Authorization

I, _____ (name of Client) authorize my personal individually identifying:
health information reports (which may infer diagnostic, treatment and care information,
registration information, and health services provider information*) of

_____ (name of Client/Health Services Provider*) to be disclosed by
_____ (name of custodian), in accordance with Section 34 of the Health
Information Act to _____ (name of recipient(s), address), for the following
purpose(s):

I acknowledge that I have been made aware of the reasons for the disclosure of the above information, and the risks and benefits associated with consenting to its release.

I understand that I may revoke my consent at any time, by providing a signed, written statement to that effect.

Dated this ____ of _____, _____. Expiry date (if any) ____ of _____, _____.
(day) (month) (year) (day) (month) (year)

Signature of Client

Printed Name of Client

Signature of Witness

Printed Name of Witness



If you are executing this Consent as an Authorized Representative, you must complete the checklist below.

Authorized Representative: Check the box that applies to you and provide a copy of documentation that supports your authority:

<input type="checkbox"/> if the individual is 18 years of age or older, by the individual
<input type="checkbox"/> if the individual is under 18 years of age and understands the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the individual
<input type="checkbox"/> if the individual is under 18 years of age but does not understand the nature of the right or power and the consequences of exercising the right or power, by the guardian of the individual
<input type="checkbox"/> if the individual is deceased, by the individual's personal representative if the exercise of the right or power relates to the administration of the individual's estate
<input type="checkbox"/> if the individual is deceased, by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the <i>Personal Directives Act</i> , if exercising the right or power is for the purpose of processing an insurance claim
<input type="checkbox"/> if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the individual under the <i>Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act</i> , by the guardian or trustee if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties of the guardian or trustee
<input type="checkbox"/> if an agent has been designated under a personal directive under the <i>Personal Directives Act</i> , by the agent if the directive so authorizes
<input type="checkbox"/> if a power of attorney has been granted by the individual, by the attorney if the exercise of the right or power relates to the powers and duties conferred by the power of attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> by the individual's nearest relative as defined in the <i>Mental Health Act</i> if the exercise of the right or power is necessary to carry out the obligations of the nearest relative under that Act
<input type="checkbox"/> by any person with written authorization from the individual to act on the individual's behalf