

Important Health Information Privacy Issues in Ontario

This information sheet contains important information about the release of personal medical information related to laboratory test information and prescription drug claim histories in Ontario.

1. Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS)

Commencing January 2011, laboratory test information will begin to be shared with health care providers

In January 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is beginning the process of sharing laboratory test information with a broad range of health care providers. You can request that all or a portion of your lab test information not be shared.

You may have seen newspaper ads about the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS). OLIS is an electronic system that will allow laboratory test information to be shared with authorized health care providers and laboratory service providers in Ontario. To date, the information stored in OLIS has not been shared. However, lab test information processed at the following labs and hospitals is already being submitted to and stored in OLIS:

Community labs:

- Gamma-Dynacare;
- LifeLabs; and
- Canadian Medical Laboratories.

Hospitals:

- Trillium Health Centre;
- Lakeridge Health Centre;
- Grey Bruce Health Services; and
- University Health Network.

If you have had a lab test processed at one of the above laboratories or hospitals, your lab test information is and will continue to be stored in OLIS. The Ministry plans to have all lab test results from all labs in Ontario submitted to and stored in OLIS by 2015. **At this time, it is not clear whether HIV-related test information has or will be submitted to and stored in OLIS.**

On December 15, 2010, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care assumed custody and control of lab test information that is submitted to and stored in OLIS. The Ministry will begin providing lab test information to eHealth Ontario, which in turn can share this information electronically with any health care provider who delivers your health care in Ontario. The lab test information is not being shared at this time, but the Ministry plans for all health care providers and labs in Ontario to have access to their patient lab test information by 2015.

In early January 2011, the Ottawa Hospital will be the first health care provider to have access to lab test information in OLIS. It is our understanding that the Ottawa Hospital is the pilot, and we do not know when additional health care providers will gain access.

You can stop your lab test information from being shared by restricting access to ALL of your lab test information or to a SPECIFIC lab test order. By restricting access, only the health care provider(s) identified on the applicable lab test order (i.e. the ordering physician and any other physician on the order form) will be able to access your lab test information.

At this time, we do not know whether HIV-related lab test information will be shared. We therefore advise you to restrict your access immediately if you do not want your HIV-related lab test information to be shared. **To restrict access to your lab test information, call the OLIS information line at 1-800-291-1406 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095).**

Ministry news bulletins about OLIS can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2010/20101119.aspx>

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2010/20101119_qa.aspx

2. Ontario Drug Benefit Program and the Drug Profile Viewer (DPV)

Prescription drug claim history, including HIV-related prescription history, is being shared with hospital health care providers

If you are in receipt of benefits under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program, your prescription drug claim history can be accessed by hospital health care providers. You can request that all or a portion of your prescription drug claim history be blocked.

The Ontario Drug Benefit Program provides drug coverage to the following Ontario residents who have valid Ontario Health Cards:

- Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program recipients;
- Trillium Drug Program registrants;
- people 65 years of age and older;
- residents of long-term care homes;
- residents of Homes for Special Care; and
- people receiving professional services under the Home Care program.

Your Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) prescription drug claim history information may be accessed by hospital health care providers through the Drug Profile Viewer (“DPV”) system.

Initially, the DPV was only available to hospital emergency departments, but DPV access is being expanded so that hospital units, wards and clinics, and in-patient pharmacies can also access your ODB prescription drug claim history. It is our understanding that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has a plan to gradually expand access to ODB drug claim history information to other health care providers in Ontario.

You can stop your ODB prescription drug claim history from being shared by restricting access to ALL or PART of your claim history.

To restrict access to your ODB prescription drug claim history, you must complete and submit a special form. The form can be found at

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/forms/eda_fm.aspx

Ministry information about the Drug Profile Viewer (DPV) system can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/dpv/pub_faq.html

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/dpv/commun_mat.html

HALCO is taking these health information privacy issues very seriously. We are communicating our concerns to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care. We will provide more information to you as soon as we receive it. If you or your clients have concerns about health information privacy, please contact our office.

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*This information sheet was prepared by HALCO – HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario).
It contains general information and is not legal advice.
If you have a legal question, please contact us, your local legal clinic or a lawyer.*