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PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

DATE: JANUARY 2011

Ontario Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan Evidence-Based (EB-PET) Program

As required by the Information and Privacy Commissioner / Ontario and Cancer Care Ontario's (CCO's) Privacy Policy, CCO completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) on CCO's Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan Evidence-Based (EB-PET) Program in December 2010.

The 2010 EB-PET Program PIA found that PHIPA authorities are in place for the operations of the program:


- The PET Scans Ontario web application and database are managed by CCO acting as an agent for the participating health information custodians in its role as a health information network provider (HINP).
- The PET Scans Ontario database is used by CCO in its role as a prescribed entity.

The following is a summary of the PIA, including a brief background on the EB-PET Program, key findings, CCO's progress in implementing the recommendations which were identified in the PIA and contact information for requesting a copy of the full PIA.

Background

In April of 2010, the MOHLTC and CCO entered into an agreement for CCO to establish, manage and coordinate the EB-PET Program. The Program covers uninsured PET scan services. Uninsured PET scan services fall under one of three domains: the PET Registry domain, the PET Clinical Trials domain or the PET Access Program domain.

The EB-PET Program will provide an information technology (IT) solution ("PET Scans Ontario web application"), which will be used to support the activities of the uninsured



program domains (PET Registry, PET Clinical Trials and the PET Access Program) and insured PET scan services.¹

The PET Scans Ontario web application enables physicians, through the use of web-based forms, to request PET scans for their patients and enables PET Centres, through the use of web-based forms, to submit results from PET scans performed at their institutions. This use of the web application by the referring physicians and the PET Centres is expected to improve the efficiency of processes and increase the security and data quality of information exchange between physicians and PET Centres.

Privacy Impact Assessment

The PET Scans Ontario web application will be provided to referring physicians and PET Centres under the ss. 6(2) PHIPA Regulation authority of a HINP. :


- CCO will provide the secure PET Scans Ontario web application to referring physicians (HICs) to allow them to submit requests for PET scans, access results of completed PET scans and access their patient's PHI when the data is entered into the CCO PET Scans Ontario web application by another HIC.
- CCO will provide the secure PET Scans Ontario web application to PET Centres (HICs) to allow them to access requests for PET scans, submit results of completed PET scans and access their patient's PHI when the data is entered into the CCO PET Scans Ontario web application by another HIC.

CCO will be acting as an agent to the HICs (referring physicians and PET Centres), as that term is defined in s. 2 of PHIPA, for managing and operating all of the domains under the EB-PET Program.

Under the PET Access Program domain, physicians will obtain the express consent of patients to provide the patient's information to CCO via the PET Scans Ontario web application for the purposes of adjudication to determine eligibility for the patient to receive a PET scan.

Lastly, CCO will use the PHI it collects from PET Centers to compile statistical reports for assessing the extent to which health care technologies such as PET scans should be used in the delivery of health care services. The PET scan reports, which do not contain

¹ At the time of completing the PIA, the proposal to the MOHLTC for the expansion of the EB-PET Program to include the process for requesting **insured** PET scans has not been approved. Approval from the MOHLTC is expected to be received in early 2011.



PHI, will be provided by CCO to the MOHLTC and the PET Steering Committee. PHIPA permits CCO, as a section 45 prescribed entity, to collect, use and disclose PHI for the purposes of planning and management for the health system.

The PIA recommends several measures to ensure that any data collected, used or disclosed by the EB-PET Program complies with PHIPA as well as CCO policies, procedures, standards and best practices.

Implementation of Privacy Impact Assessment Recommendations

In summary, the PIA provides the following recommendations:

1. Amendment to PHIPA and/or its Regulation, clarifying that FIPPA does not apply to CCO's collection, use or disclosure of PHI, when acting under its various PHIPA authorities;
2. Agreements are required to be in place between CCO and HICs using the PET Scans Ontario web application;
3. An Agreement is required to be in place prior to CCO transferring data to external organizations as permitted under PHIPA;
4. All data linkages are to be performed in accordance with CCO's Privacy Policy (4th edition);
5. Quality assurance practices are to be implemented;
6. A Threat Risk Assessment is to be conducted;
7. A threat model for HINP logging and audit requirements are to be developed; and
8. A plain language description of the EB-PET program and the safeguards it has implemented should be made available to HICs and the public.

CCO is in the process of addressing all of the recommendations which were identified in the 2010 EB-PET Program PIA.

Please contact the CCO Privacy & Access Office should you have any questions:

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