



PRIVACY & YOUR RIGHTS

Personal Health Information

Your Privacy is our business

If you require more information on your privacy, please talk to your GP, Registered Nurse, Midwife or Aboriginal Health Worker

Aims

This brochure aims to explain what Personal Health Information is and how this information is used, recorded and managed at Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS).

What is Personal Health Information?

Information that is about your health and that identifies you if someone reads it, is called 'health information'. It includes your past, present and any planned future medical or health care.

Why is this information collected?

WACHS needs information about your past and present health to make sure you get the best care possible.

How is my Personal information used?

Your personal information is used to improve the quality of care we give to all our clients by reviewing the treatment used here at this service.

Can I access my personal health information?

Yes, everyone has the right to access their own personal health information. You can access your health information and are able to discuss this health information with your doctor.

What are my rights?

- You have the right to know when information about you is sent to another person, for example we will always ask your permission to refer you to a specialist.
- You have the right to tell us if you don't want a particular doctor, nurse or health worker involved in your healthcare
- You have the right to ask us not to include your information for data collection

- You have the right to ask your doctor to see your medical records
- You have the right to raise any concerns or complaints you may have in respect to the privacy of your personal health information.

Only necessary information will be given in any circumstance. For example, we give only the minimum amount of information to Medicare to obtain the rebate for your treatment.

Information that does not identify me

Sometimes it is necessary for WACHS to collect information that has been de-identified. De-identified means that any person reading the information would not in any way be able to identify the person. This may be done at times for quality improvement or research purposes.

WACHS does not allow any research to be done that has not met very strict guidelines. It then must be approved by WACHS's Board of Management. If you don't want your information included in research, please tell your doctor.

Providing your information to others?

WACHS will not disclose your personal health information to anyone without your consent or unless:

- The disclosure is necessary because you are at risk of harm and cannot give consent.
- Your doctor is legally obliged to disclose the information.
- The information is needed for Medicare payments or other health insurance rebates.

How can I find out more?

Further information on Privacy Legislation is available from:

The Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner

Phone: 1300 363 992

or

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au