

MORE ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT (FIPPA, also commonly referred to as FOI).

How FOI came to Ontario hospitals

- Our hospital values accountability and transparency.
- In fact, we operate in one of the most demanding health care accountability systems in all of Canada. Almost every aspect of our hospital performance is subject to external, independent scrutiny.
- Nevertheless, the hospital sector is committed to constantly improving transparency and accountability.
- So, in 2009, hospitals (through the Ontario Hospital Association) asked the government to extend the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to hospitals, knowing it was one more way that our sector could demonstrate its deep and continuing commitment to transparency and accountability.

What FOI means for hospitals and patients

- Ontario hospitals set out to have freedom of information legislation extended to their organizations as a way of engendering trust and public confidence among their communities.
- The purpose of the freedom of information legislation is twofold:
 1. First, it provides a right of access to information that should be made public.
 2. Second, it protects the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information about themselves held by institutions and to provide individuals with a right of access to that information.

How hospitals have prepared for FOI

- Our hospital, like all hospitals in Ontario, has been working very hard to prepare for the application of the FOI legislation to our sector.
- We have been working closely with the Ontario Hospital Association, the Government of Ontario, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner to implement the legislation and its required processes.
- All hospitals, ours included, have worked hard to prepare for this new era of accountability.

- We have learned from other jurisdictions, attended courses, worked through guidance documents and toolkits, and have sought the advice and expertise of experts in the field.
- In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we have begun proactively posting a number of documents that may be of interest to our community. These include :
 - Executive contracts;
 - Executive and Board expenses;
 - Quality Improvement Plan;
 - Infection Control Rates;
 - Accountability Agreements;
 - Directory of Records;
 - Patient Safety Indicators;
 - Code of Ethics;
 - Patient Safety and Rights; and
 - Policies
- We are very well prepared to handle and respond to any information requests that our community members may have.
- We look forward to our continued work with our colleagues in the government and in the Office of the Privacy Commissioner to help bring added trust and confidence to the communities we serve.