

HDP Privacy Overview

Course 2: Overview of Personal Information



Course 2 Learning Objectives



Ministry of
Health

- Learn what is Personal Information (PI)
- Learn why it is required to protect PI
- Learn about PI direct and indirect identifiers



‘Personal information’ means recorded information about an identifiable individual other than contact information (Schedule 1, FOIPPA)

You personal Information Includes, but is not limited to:

- Race, national/ethnic origin, skin color
- Religious or political beliefs or associations
- Age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status
- Fingerprints, blood type, DNA information, biometrics
- Health care, educational, financial, criminal, or employment history
- Your opinion unless that opinion is about someone else

Direct Identifiers

These are variables that can directly identify individuals, either individually or in combination.

Examples: name, email address, telephone number, home address, social insurance number, IP address, Personal Health Number

A data set cannot be considered anonymized if these variables are included.

Indirect Identifiers

These are variables that do not directly identify an individual but can be used for indirect re-identification. There is no universal definition of what are indirect identifiers – context is everything.

Indirect identifiers may differ across data sets. For example, gender will not be as meaningful an indirect identifier if all of the individuals the data set are female.

Releasing indirect identifiers may result in the '[mosaic effect](#)', which posits that the release of even innocuous information can jeopardize Privacy if a knowledgeable reader can piece that information together with other data or prior knowledge.

Disclosing someone else's PI without their consent may result in:

- Humiliation or Embarrassment
- Delays in Care, No Care, Avoidance of Care
- Fraud and identity theft
- Financial Harm
- Emotional Harm
- Emotional Harm
- Damage to Relationships or Reputation
- Loss of Business Opportunities
- Harassment/ Physical Harm
- Loss of trust in Government, Researchers, and/or Care Providers



[Office of the Chief Information & Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia \(OIPC\) Investigation Reports](#)

End Course 2



HDPBC
Health Data Platform