

## **PRIVACY and SHARING of your HEALTH INFORMATION**

This practice is bound by the “**Health Information Privacy Code**”. We are required to inform you what happens to the information we collect on you. We have a copy of the Code if you would like to see it. You can also read it at [www.privacy.org.nz](http://www.privacy.org.nz) and <http://www.privacy.org.nz/the-privacy-act-and-codes/>

You may request to see and correct any information we hold about you

All the information you impart is strictly confidential to the Practice.

There are some instances when information we have collected about you **will** be shared with others:

- In the interests of quality medical care, (see examples below). This includes the rare instances where there is perceived to be serious risk to the life or health of you or others. It also includes using information in practice activities eg screening, preventive health reminder systems etc.
- For you to obtain financial benefits under the health and social welfare system,
- For the practice to participate in contracts relating to pharmaceutical and laboratory budget holding with an IPA or PHO.

The following is a list of instances of sharing of information which you should be aware of.

***Name, address, gender, date of birth, date of contact with the practice etc (No medical information) may given to:***

- Ministry of Health’s funding agency (name subject to change)
- Accident Compensation –see below also
- An IPA, independent practitioners association or a PHO, Primary Health Organisation–see below also
- Your pharmacy in your prescription and then on to Ministry of Health

***In addition to the above information, RELEVANT Medical Information is given to:***

- Authorised personnel working in emergency departments or after hours services. They may access *relevant* medical information via the ‘shared record’. This is currently under development.
- ACC with your consent, (when you sign an M45, you consent to the release of information to ACC)
  - Ministry of Health Funding agency when you apply for a high user card, or the practice makes a maternity benefit claim on your behalf, (pregnancy number and Date of last period for maternity claims) or a GMS claim
  - Income Support when you apply for a Disability Allowance, Sickness Benefit
  - Medical Laboratories when you are referred for tests (to aid interpretation of results)
  - Community/Public Health in instances of Notifiable Diseases.
  - Smear test results, previous smear history to the Cervical Screening Register via the Laboratory with your consent
  - The police on request, only in very limited circumstances covered in detail under the Health Information Privacy Code
  - The coroner in some cases of death
  - The Ministry of Health and/or local practitioners in cases where people are trying to obtain prescription drugs for illegal purposes
  - Intensive Medicines Monitoring Program for patients on medicines in this program
  - Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee for patients with a significant drug reaction

***Detailed information is often given to:***

- Any specialist or other health care service to which you are referred with your consent
- Insurance Companies to ascertain Medical, Life or Disability Cover for you - you consent to this when you sign the application for the policy.

If you have any concerns or queries about the above, please speak to your Doctor or the Medical Director or Manager

University of Canterbury HEALTH CENTRE:  
**PRIVACY of HEALTH INFORMATION statement**