

Privacy Information for External HealthOne NSW Providers

This information sheet is to outline the privacy obligations for providers of HealthOne NSW who are normally external to NSW Health.

HealthOne NSW brings together General Practitioners, community health and other health care providers to deliver a multidisciplinary team approach to patient/client care. In order to do this, patient/client health information of those participating in the HealthOne NSW service will be shared when it is relevant to the patient's care and treatment.

Privacy laws

Existing common law duties of confidentiality and privacy laws apply to HealthOne NSW providers. The *Privacy Act 1988* (Commonwealth) applies to private providers and non-government organisations. In addition, the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (NSW) applies to private providers, non-government organisations as well as NSW Health. Given the close similarities and significant overlap between both Acts, there is no conflict in the way that public and private HealthOne NSW providers manage their privacy practices.

Privacy policies

External HealthOne NSW providers may continue with their usual privacy practices, or may adopt local NSW Health practices, such as use of the NSW Health patient leaflet, privacy posters, and so on.

NSW Health privacy practices are detailed in HealthOne NSW privacy materials, and in the NSW Health Privacy Manual, Policy Directive PD2005_593, available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/index.html>

The NSW Health Privacy Manual provides guidance to NSW Health staff on their obligations under the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*, as well as providing practical and operational assistance with regards to privacy management.

In summary, sections of the NSW Health Privacy Manual most relevant to HealthOne NSW providers are:

- Appropriate **collection** of patient information
See Privacy Manual, Section 7
- Appropriate **security** practices to protect patient information from loss, misuse or unauthorised use and disclosure
See Privacy Manual, Section 9
- Appropriate **use and disclosure** of patient information
See Privacy Manual, Section 11

Reporting a breach of privacy

Should HealthOne NSW providers become aware of any potential breach of privacy or information security, the local Privacy Contact Officer should be contacted. A contact list for Privacy Contact Officers can be obtained from the NSW Health Privacy webpage.

Further information

- NSW Health Privacy webpage: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/utilities/privacy>
- NSW Office of the Privacy Commissioner webpage: <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/privacynsw>
- Office of the Australian Information Commissioner: <http://www.privacy.gov.au/>