

# Health Information Privacy Statement

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*I understand the following:*

## Access to my health information

I have the right to access, and have corrected, my health information under Rules 6 and 7 of the Health Information Privacy Code 1994.

## Visiting another doctor

If I visit another doctor who is not my regular doctor, I will be asked for permission to share information from the visit with my regular doctor or medical centre.

If I have a High User Health Card or Community Services Card and I visit another doctor who is not my regular doctor, he/she can make a claim for a subsidy, and the medical centre I am enrolled in will be informed of the date of that visit. The name of the medical centre I visited and the reason(s) for the visit will not be disclosed unless I give my consent.

## Patient enrolment information

The information I have provided on the enrolment form will be:

- ▶ Held by the medical centre
- ▶ Used by the Ministry of Health to give me a National Health Index (NHI) number or update any changes
- ▶ Sent to Midlands Regional Health Network Charitable Trust (the Trust), which is a primary health organisation and to the Ministry of Health to obtain subsidised funding on my behalf. **This does not apply to casual patients**
- ▶ Used to determine eligibility to receive publicly-funded services. Information may be compared with other government agencies but only when permitted under the Privacy Act

## Health information

Members of my health team may:

- ▶ Add to my health record during any services provided to me and use that information to provide appropriate care
- ▶ Share relevant health information to other health professionals who are directly involved in my care

## Audit

With regards to financial audits, my health information may be reviewed by an auditor for checking a financial claim made by the medical centre, but only according to the terms and conditions of Section 22G of the Health Act or any subsequent applicable Act. I may be contacted by the auditor to check that services have been received. If the audit involves checking on health matters, an appropriately qualified health care practitioner will view the health records.

## Health programmes

Health data relevant to a programme in which I am enrolled, such as breast screening, immunisation or diabetes, may be sent to the Trust or the external health organisation managing this programme.

## Other uses of health information

Health information, which will not include my name but may include my NHI number, may be used by health organisations such as the district health board, the Ministry of Health or the Trust for the following purposes, as long as it is not used or published in a way that can identify me:

- ▶ Health service planning and reporting
- ▶ Monitoring service quality
- ▶ Payment

## Research

My health information may be used for health research, but only if this has been approved by an ethics committee and will not be used or published in a way that can identify me.

Except as listed above, I understand that details about my health status or the services I have received will remain confidential within the medical centre unless I give specific consent for this information to be communicated.

## Enrolling with a Medical Centre

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Medical centres provide a full range of primary, community-based health care services to the public. These services include the diagnosis, management and treatment of health conditions, long term care plans, health promotion, prevention, screening and referral to hospital and specialist services.

The Midlands Regional Health Network Charitable Trust (the Trust) is a primary health organisation

(PHO) and is responsible for the governance of Midlands Health Network, of which this medical centre is a member. The Trust is made up of community, iwi and clinical representatives and is the entity that contracts with district health boards and the Ministry of Health for funding to provide health services to the Midlands Health Network population.

## Enrolling with a Primary Health Organisation

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### Primary health organisations

Primary health organisations (PHOs) support the delivery and co-ordination of primary health care services by bringing together doctors, nurses and other health professionals to serve the needs of their communities.

Health professionals can include, but are not limited to, Māori health workers, health promoters, dietitians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health workers and midwives.

PHOs receive a set amount of funding from the government to support the delivery of a range of health services, including visits to the doctor. Funding is based on the number of people enrolled with the PHO and aspects such as age, gender, and ethnicity. This funding also lets medical centres approach and

offer services to those in the community who are missing out on health services or who have poor health.

### Benefits of enrolling

Enrolling is free and voluntary. If you choose not to enrol you can still receive health care services from a chosen doctor or medical centre. Advantages of enrolling include cheaper visits to your medical centre and direct access to a range of health and community services linked to the PHO.

### How do I enrol?

To enrol, you need to complete an enrolment form at the medical centre of your choice. Parents can enrol children under 16 years of age, but children 16 years of age and over need to sign their own form.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What happens if I am enrolled in a medical centre but I don't see them very often?

If you have not visited your medical centre in a three year period it is likely that the medical centre will contact you and ask if you wish to remain with them. If you are not able to be contacted or do not respond, your name will be taken off the medical centre and PHO enrolment registers. You can re-enrol with the same medical centre or at another medical centre and the associated PHO at a later time.

### What happens if the medical centre changes to a new PHO?

If the medical centre changes to a new PHO, the medical centre will let you know.

### What happens if I go to another medical centre?

You can go to another medical centre or change to a new medical centre at any time. If you are enrolled in a PHO through one medical centre and visit another medical centre as a casual patient, you will pay a higher fee for that visit. So if you have more than one medical centre, you should consider enrolling with the medical centre you visit most often.

### How do I know if I'm eligible for publicly funded health and disability services?

You can talk to the medical centre team, call 0800 855 151, or visit [www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility) and work through the guide to eligibility criteria.