

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Sharing patient information with health care staff in First Nations communities

GUIDELINES FOR NORTHERN HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

This document will provide clarification about sharing patient information for First Nations people who live in First Nations communities. Communicating relevant patient information to health care staff in First Nations communities is very important for the continuity of services and to avoid risks to the health and safety of the people to be served.

First Nations people who live in First Nations communities in the north receive many of their acute care services within Northern Health (NH) hospitals and facilities. After being discharged from a NH facility, people return to their home community where follow-up services are provided by the health care staff in the First Nations community.

Informing health care staff in First Nations communities that a person has been discharged and is returning home allows for timely follow-up. Providing specific information about the person's follow-up needs ensures safe and continuous care for that person and their family.

You can and should share information with health care providers in First Nations communities, once a patient has given verbal consent for you to do so.

CONSENT TO SHARE PATIENT INFORMATION¹

In order to share relevant patient information with health care providers in First Nations communities, confirm with the patient what community they will be returning to after leaving the hospital.

1. Explain the importance of sharing relevant information with the community health care staff for their safety and continuity of care.
2. Ask the patient if you can contact the health care staff (indicate the provider's title/position) in the patient's community in order to share relevant information and to include the health care staff in planning the patient's transition home and their follow-up care.
3. Document the conversation and the outcome in the patient file.

ABORIGINAL PATIENT LIAISONS

Ten Aboriginal Patient Liaisons² (APLs) are located across the north at the following NH facilities and are available to assist with discharge planning, patient transitions, and connecting with First Nations and Aboriginal communities:

Bulkley Valley District Hospital	250-847-5211
Chetwynd Hospital and Health Centre	250-788-7300
Dawson Creek and District Hospital	250-782-8501
Fort St. John Hospital	250-261-7418
GR Baker Memorial Hospital	250-985-5812
Lakes District Hospital	250-692-2474
Mills Memorial Hospital	250-638-4085
Prince Rupert Regional Hospital	250-624-2171
University Hospital of Northern BC	250-565-2364
Wrinch Memorial Hospital	250-842-4666

APLs and Aboriginal Patient Navigators are also located in regional health authorities throughout the province to assist with patient transfers to facilities outside of NH.



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ENDNOTES

1 Health care information can be shared as permitted by 33.2(a) and 34 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of British Columbia:
www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

2 For up-to-date contact information for Aboriginal Patient Liaisons, visit:
northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/AboriginalHealth/WhatWeDo/AboriginalPatientLiaisonProgram.aspx

This document has been reviewed by the Northern Health Privacy Office and the Northern Health Risk and Compliance Office.

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