

HEALTHe NL Consent Management

About HEALTHe NL

HEALTHe Newfoundland and Labrador (HEALTHe NL), the provincial electronic health record, is a secure and private record of a person's health and healthcare history. It shares select aspects of your health information, such as medications, x-rays and blood tests, with authorized health professionals. HEALTHe NL is improving your healthcare by making your health information available to those who need it when they need it. HEALTHe NL is operated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information.

Most people who have received healthcare in Newfoundland and Labrador have a profile in HEALTHe NL.

About HEALTHe NL Consent Management

Because your consent to use and share your health information is implied when you receive healthcare, you have a right to withdraw this consent (with some exceptions). HEALTHe NL does this by allowing you to apply a consent directive. A consent directive will restrict HEALTHe NL users of your choosing from seeing your HEALTHe NL profile.

You can apply a consent directive for:

- yourself; or
- someone for whom you are authorized to make health-related decisions (e.g. a child, an adult who is unable to make decisions for themselves).

When you apply a directive, you will also set a HEALTHe NL password. You will use this password to give temporary access to users who are blocked by your directive. This password gives you greater control over who can access your health information.

Once you have applied a directive, you can change or cancel your directive, or change your password, at any time by contacting the Centre for Health Information at 1-877-752-6006.

How to Apply a HEALTHe NL Consent Directive

You can apply a HEALTHe NL consent directive by submitting an “Add or Remove a Consent Directive” form. Instructions for completing the form can be found on the back of the form.

Things You Should Know Before You Make a Decision

Before you decide to apply a HEALTHe NL consent directive, you should understand the following consequences, limitations, and responsibilities.

Consequences

- your directive may delay your care (e.g. you might forget your password, or your doctor might need your password to check results when you are not available).

Limitations

- your directive will not block access to basic identifying information, such as name, date of birth, address and healthcare number – only clinical information, such as medications and blood work, is blocked;
- your directive can be overridden based upon professional judgment (e.g. medical emergencies);
- your directive may not be exactly what you want (e.g. you may only want to block access to your medications, but HEALTHe NL must block all of your clinical information) – however, you will be told exactly what rules are set;
- your directive only applies to users accessing your information in HEALTHe NL – you may also wish to contact your local clinic, hospital or pharmacy to establish additional consent directives that apply to their systems and staff (the HEALTHe NL Consent Administrator can provide you with appropriate contacts); and
- your directive will not prevent health information from being shared for legally authorized or mandated purposes for which your consent is not required (e.g. health system planning, criminal investigations) – however, identifiers such as names, dates of birth and health care numbers are removed whenever possible.

Responsibilities

- you are responsible for modifying or cancelling your directive if you believe it no longer meets your needs;
- you are responsible for notifying the HEALTHe NL Consent Administrator if you have set a directive on behalf of another person and no longer have the authority to act on their behalf; and
- you are responsible for maintaining the security of your password, and for changing your password if you believe it has been compromised.

What to Expect Following Application Submission

Once your application is received, it will be reviewed to ensure that all the supporting documentation is included. You will then be contacted by the HEALTHe NL Consent Administrator to discuss any questions and proceed with applying your directive.

Should you wish to proceed; the Consent Administrator will work with you to set up your password.

For More Information

For more information on HEALTHe NL, consent management or the enclosed form, please contact the Centre for Health Information at 1-877-752-6006.