



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2009

Privacy Guidance For Physicians

COMMISSIONER, BCMA AND COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OFFER GUIDANCE TO PHYSICIANS ON PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF PATIENT RECORDS

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons and the British Columbia Medical Association have released a joint toolkit, the *BC Physician Privacy Toolkit*, to assist physicians in managing the many privacy issues associated with the collection, use, disclosure, retention and protection of sensitive personal health information.

The updated *BC Physician Privacy Toolkit* provides physicians with information to help them comply with their legal duty, under the *Personal Information Protection Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, to protect personal health information.

Highlights from the toolkit include: how to protect patient information, privacy and security considerations for electronic medical record implementation, responding to privacy breaches, electronic medical records and role-based access and secure destruction of personal information.

The privacy toolkit is available on the websites of the Commissioner, the BCMA and the College:

Commissioner: www.oipc.bc.ca

BCMA: www.bcma.org/bcma-home-page

College: www.cpsbc.ca/

For further information, contact:

Maria Dupuis

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

Tel: (250) 387-7299

E-mail: mdupuis@oipc.bc.ca