

Canadian Institute for Health Information
Update to the
Privacy Impact Assessment
of the Therapeutic Abortions Database, 2003

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Update to the 2003 Therapeutic Abortions Database Privacy Impact Assessment

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Background

The Therapeutic Abortions database has been maintained by CIHI since CIHI's creation in 1994, and contains calendar year data for the years 1994 to 2008. The database is stored in a secure location on the CIHI network and accessible only to selected Therapeutic Abortions program area staff. The majority of the information used to populate the database was extracted from the CIHI's Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) held by CIHI. Other sources of data for the Therapeutic Abortions database include:

- the Alberta Ambulatory Care Reporting System (AACRS) for 2007 and 2008
- aggregate information about abortions performed in clinics in Alberta, provided by the Alberta Ministry of Health;
- aggregate information on abortions performed in private clinics in Ontario provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health from the OHIP billing system – provided in electronic file);
- aggregate information on abortions performed in Quebec hospitals and clinics provided to CIHI by the Québec Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS) – provided in electronic file; and
- aggregate information on abortions performed in private clinics elsewhere across the country provided voluntarily by these clinics upon request – provided on paper.

Up until 2010, CIHI provided Statistics Canada with the extract of therapeutic abortions data from DAD and NACRS, as well as the aggregated data from Quebec, Ontario and the private clinics. Statistics Canada was responsible for analyzing and reporting on the data and currently holds de-identified therapeutic abortions data for calendar years up to and including 2006 data.

For further background information, see the *Privacy Impact Assessment of the Therapeutic Abortions Database, June 2003*.

Current Situation

As of 2010, CIHI assumed the responsibility from Statistics Canada to publish statistical reports on therapeutic abortions data. Because the majority of the data required for this purpose are extracted from already-existing databases held by CIHI, it will no longer be creating a separate database to store therapeutic abortions data. Instead, Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) programs will be used to extract the data from the Discharge Abstract Database and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System and populate the basic tables that CIHI will publish on its website. CIHI will continue to store in a secure location the historical database which includes de-identified therapeutic abortions data up to and including 2008 calendar year data. A decision with respect to the retention period for the historical database is expected in 2011-12.

Management of Therapeutic Abortion data at CIHI

All data requests or reports are subject to CIHI's general privacy and confidentiality policies.

CIHI has set up an internal committee called the Management of Termination of Pregnancy Data Working Group. This group meets regularly to discuss and make recommendations about appropriate business processes, practices and guidelines to assist CIHI in assessing whether its products are in accordance with provincial legislative requirements and CIHI's privacy policy, specifically related to termination of pregnancy data.

Conclusion

As there is no longer a requirement to maintain a discrete database of therapeutic abortion data, a separate privacy impact assessment is not required. No further updates to the *2003 Privacy Impact Assessment of the Therapeutic Abortions Database*, therefore, will be reported. Should the situation change in the future, CIHI will address the requirement for a privacy impact assessment in accordance with its *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*.