

DOCUdavit Solutions Inc. Privacy Policy

Alberta

Last Updated: June 22, 2010

This Privacy Policy (the “Policy”) sets out how DOCUdavit Solutions Inc. (DSI) complies with its responsibilities related to patient health information (PHI) on behalf of physicians or other healthcare providers in the province of Alberta who have closed their practice. DSI is committed to preserving and safeguarding an individual patient’s privacy and the confidentiality and security of their PHI.

As part of this commitment, we want you to be fully aware of what happens to the PHI in our possession. DSI complies with the privacy legislation of the last province in which the physician practiced (the “Originating Province”), as well as the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA). In Alberta, the Originating Province legislation is the *Health Information Act* (the HIA). This Policy, consistent with the HIA, uses the term “Custodians” to refer to Alberta health care providers. They contract with DSI to store and otherwise manage their records of patient PHI. DSI acts as an information manager of the Custodians in performing these services. Accordingly, DSI only acts with the authorization and on behalf of Custodians when managing PHI. Custodians maintain control over the PHI in the possession of DSI and remain accountable for it. DSI collects, uses, discloses, retains or disposes of PHI as permitted by the Custodians in our Services Contracts and the requirements of the HIA.

Patient Access to Their Own Personal Health Information

Custodians who have contracted with DSI have authorized DSI to provide their former patients (or persons who are authorized to exercise rights on behalf of an individual patient) with copies of their records of PHI and to make such records available for examination by the individual or their authorized representative. In the event of the Custodian’s death, this authorization extends to their personal representative.

Upon receipt of a written request confirming the patient’s identity and the fact that they were a patient of a Custodian for whom DSI provides services, DSI will provide the patient or their representative with an estimate of the fee. This fee estimate will be provided prior to making the record available for examination or providing a copy of it. Upon payment of the fee, DSI, as per the individual’s request, will make the record of PHI available for examination or provide a copy to the patient, or as directed, to another individual such as the patient’s new physician.

- DSI will respond to access requests within 30 days.
- DSI will charge a reasonable fee for access, in accordance with the

recommendations of the Alberta Medical Association, plus the cost of applicable taxes and shipping costs.

Use of Patient Health Information

DSI uses PHI solely for the purposes authorized by Custodians as set out in our Services Contract and in compliance with the HIA. DSI does not use PHI if other information would serve the purpose; nor does it use more PHI than is reasonably necessary to meet these purposes.

We use the PHI to convert paper records into digital file storage, destroy the paper records, comply with patient requests for access to their own records of PHI, provide access to the Custodians of their patient PHI and transform individually identifying PHI to create non-identifying health information.

Disclosure of Patient Health Information

DSI discloses PHI in its possession in compliance with the HIA. DSI does not disclose PHI if other information would serve the purpose; nor does it disclose more PHI than is reasonably necessary to meet these purposes.

Unless required by law or as permitted by the Custodian for whom it acts as an information manager, DSI will disclose an individual's PHI only with the express written consent of the patient (or persons who are authorized to exercise rights on behalf of an individual patient).

DSI will maintain a record of any requests made for a patient's PHI.

Security of Patient Health Information

DSI will take steps that are reasonable in the circumstances to maintain administrative, technical and physical safeguards that will: (a) protect the confidentiality of the PHI in its possession and the privacy of the individuals who are the subjects of that information; and (b) protect against any reasonably anticipated threat or hazard to the security or integrity of the PHI or of the loss of the PHI, or unauthorized use, disclosure or modification of the PHI or unauthorized access to the PHI.

All DSI staff have signed employment agreements which include confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions. These agreements provide that employees may be subject to disciplinary sanctions, up to and including termination, in the event that they do not comply with these provisions.

The PHI is stored in and only accessed in Canada.

Retention and Destruction of Personal Health Information

There are numerous regulations within Canada and each Province that apply to the storage and maintenance of PHI. To ensure compliance with the maximum retention periods, DSI's policy is to retain PHI for a minimum of 10 years. In addition DSI will maintain the PHI of minors for an additional period of time as directed by provincial regulations in effect from time to time.

Paper records are destroyed after they have been scanned and a copy has been provided to the HIC. DIS stores a copy of the scanned records. DSI destroys the scanned records when they are no longer required in accordance with the DSI retention schedule, and upon the direction of the Custodian, the PHI contained in paper and electronic records is destroyed in a secure manner that ensures that the information cannot be reconstructed in any way.

Privacy Breaches

In the event that PHI of a Custodian's former patient is stolen, lost or accessed by unauthorized persons, DSI will, at the first reasonable opportunity, notify the Custodian for whom it acts as an information manager. In accordance with its Services Contracts with Custodians, DSI will, at the first reasonable opportunity, notify the individuals whose PHI has been subject to the breach and will report the privacy breach to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta as is deemed necessary considering the circumstances of the breach.

Changes to the Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the way in which we manage PHI or in accordance with legislative requirements. For your ease of reference, the date on which the Policy was last updated is set out at the beginning of the document. We will protect your privacy and the confidentiality and security of your PHI in accordance with the current Policy applicable to PHI within Alberta.

Challenging Compliance

Should you disagree with DSI's decision related to access to your records of PHI, or have reasonable grounds to believe that DSI is not managing your PHI in accordance with the HIA, you may appeal DSI's decision or make a complaint to the:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta (Edmonton)
410, 9925 - 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2J8

Contact Information

We welcome your comments regarding this Policy. If you have questions about this Policy, or concerns or complaints regarding our procedures and practices on

how we manage PHI in our possession or our compliance with the HIA, please contact:

Title: Mr. Sidney Soil

Address: DOCUdavit Solutions Inc.
28 Eugene St.
Toronto, ON
M6B3Z4

Email: privacy@docudavit.com