

Health Information Privacy Statement

It is compulsory for general practices to ask you to read and agree to this statement before signing the enrolment form. Once you have read it, please tick the corresponding box on your enrolment form and sign it.

I understand the following:

Access to my health information

I have the right to access (and have corrected) my health information under Rules 6 and 7 of the Health Information Privacy Code 1994.

Visiting another GP

If I visit another GP who is not my regular doctor I will be asked for permission to share information from the visit with my regular doctor or practice.

If I have a High User Health Card or Community Services Card and I visit another GP who is not my regular doctor, he/she can make a claim for a subsidy, and the practice I am enrolled in will be informed of the date of that visit. The name of the practice I visited and the reason(s) for the visit will not be disclosed unless I give my consent.

Patient enrolment information (enrolled patients only)

The information I have provided on the Practice enrolment form will be:

- held by the practice
- used by the Ministry of Health to give me a National Health Index (NHI) number, or update any changes
- sent to the PHO and Ministry of Health to obtain subsidised funding on my behalf
- used to determine eligibility to receive publicly funded services. Information may be compared with other government agencies but only when permitted under the Privacy Act.

Health information

Members of my health team may:

- add to my health record during any services provided to me and use that information to provide appropriate care
- send relevant health information to other health professionals who are directly involved in my care.

Audit

In the case of financial audits, my health information may be reviewed by an auditor for checking a financial claim made by the practice, but only according to the terms and conditions of section 22G of the Health Act (or any subsequent applicable Act). I may be contacted by the auditor to check that services have been received. If the audit involves checking on health matters, an appropriately qualified health care practitioner will view the health records.

Health programmes

Health data relevant to a programme in which I am enrolled (e.g., breast screening, immunisation, diabetes) may be sent to the PHO or the external health agency managing this programme.

Other uses of health information

Health information which will not include my name but may include my National Health Index Identifier (NHI) may be used by health agencies such as the district health board, Ministry of Health or PHO for the following purposes, as long as it is not used or published in a way that can identify me:

- health service planning and reporting
- monitoring service quality
- payment.

Research

My health information may be used for health research, but only if this has been approved by an Ethics Committee and will not be used or published in a way that can identify me.

Except as listed above, I understand that details about my health status or the services I have received will remain confidential within the medical practice unless I give specific consent for them to be communicated.

How do I enrol?

To enrol you must be eligible and complete the accompanying enrolment form at the general practice of your choice.

What are the enrolment criteria?

To enrol as a permanent patient, you must meet one of the eligibility criteria listed below.

I am eligible to enrol because I am residing permanently in New Zealand* and meet one of the following criteria:

- a. I am a New Zealand citizen **OR**
- b. I hold a resident visa or a permanent resident visa (or a residence permit if issued before December 2010) **OR**
- c. I am an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident AND able to show I have been in New Zealand or intend to stay in New Zealand for at least 2 consecutive years **OR**
- d. I have a work visa/permit and can show that I am able to be in New Zealand for at least 2 years (previous permits included) **OR**
- e. I am an interim visa holder** who is eligible immediately before my interim visa started **OR**
- f. I am a refugee or protected person OR in the process of applying for, or appealing refugee or protection status, OR a victim or suspected victim of people trafficking **OR**
- g. I am under 18 years and in the care and control of a parent/legal guardian/adopting parent who meets one criterion in clauses a-f above **OR**
- h. I am 18 or 19 years old and can demonstrate that, on the 15 April 2011, I was the dependant of an eligible work permit holder **OR**
- i. I am a NZ Aid Programme student studying in NZ and receiving Official Development Assistance funding*** (or their partner or child under 18 years old) **OR**
- j. I am participating in the Ministry of Education Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship scheme **OR**
- k. I am a Commonwealth Scholarship holder studying in NZ and receiving funding from a New Zealand university under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Fund.

I confirm that, if requested, I can provide proof of my eligibility.

These eligibility criteria are repeated on your enrolment form and you will be asked to tick the one that applies to you.

For further information about eligibility please refer to www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility.

Other situations where you may be asked to sign an enrolment form:

Casual patient

If you do not meet the enrolment criteria and wish to be a casual patient, please complete the relevant parts of the enrolment form.

Enrolling children (under 16 years)

Parents can enrol and sign for children under 16 years of age, but children 16 years or over must sign their own form.

Enrolling on someone else's behalf (other than children)

In some circumstances you may sign for another person if for some reason they are unable to consent on their own behalf. This is referred to as Signed by Authority.

An Authority is the legal right to sign for another person.

FAQs:

What happens if I go to another general practice?

You can go to another general practice or change to a new general practice at any time. If you are enrolled in a PHO through one general practice and visit another practice as a casual patient you will pay a higher fee for that visit. So if you have more than one general practice you should consider enrolling with the practice you visit most often.

What happens if the general practice changes to a new PHO?

If the general practice changes to a new PHO the practice will make this information available to you.

What happens if I am enrolled in a general practice but don't see them very often?

If you have not received services from your general practice in a three-year period it is likely that the practice will contact you and ask if you wish to remain with the practice. If you are not able to be contacted or do not respond, your name will be taken off the Practice and PHO Enrolment Registers. You can re-enrol with the same general practice or another general practice and the affiliated PHO at a later time.

*The definition of residing in NZ is that you intend to be resident in New Zealand for at least 183 days in the next 12 months

**If a person has an interim visa this means they are waiting for Immigration to finish processing an application (as Immigration issues an interim visa if the old visa has run out but the new visa is still being processed). For example, a person may have had a two year work permit and has been issued with an interim visa while waiting for their application for another two year work permit to be processed. Immigration usually issue interim visas in a letter form.