

Healthcare Privacy Codes of Practice Karanne Lambton, CCHRA(C)

In 2001/02, members of the BC Ministry of Health Security Working Group (SWG) brought the business problems related to clinical data and information sharing to the fore and struck a subgroup to address practice of standards related to the protection of personal privacy. In February 2002 the initiative was approved to proceed.

Membership of the subgroup was based on a broad group of stakeholders representing government, health professions, health authorities and field experts.

The hard work of these participants has resulted in a proposed standard called "Healthcare Privacy Codes of Practice". The Privacy Code proposes practice standards related to the 10 privacy principles, provincial and federal legislation, ethical principles and practical considerations. The Privacy Code covers information management needs as opposed to the information security standard covered under ISO 17799.

All HRABC members involved in data sharing, record management or record release should familiarize themselves with this new standard. There will be a need for thought and planning around your organization's practices to support compliance.

The Privacy Code of Practice is now posted on the BC Health Information Standards Council website for review and feedback. There is a feedback form available on the web page. An overview of the standard as well as the new "Healthcare Privacy Code of Practice" can be found at:

http://healthnet.hnet.bc.ca/hds/proposed_standards/CoP.htm