



Programme for the Integration of Mental Health Data



MANATŪ HAUORA

**What happens
to your mental
health and
addiction
information?**

When you use mental health and addiction services, your health care providers will collect information about you to help look after you. Information is also collected and sent to the Ministry of Health to help manage the national mental health system.

This pamphlet explains what information is collected for the Ministry of Health and why. It also explains how your privacy is protected.

Why is information collected about me?

The Ministry of Health collects information about you to help improve the provision of health services in New Zealand. In particular, the information is used for planning, funding and monitoring purposes. The information collected helps to determine:

- ▶ what health care services are being provided around the country
- ▶ whether these services are being provided to the people who need them
- ▶ whether these services are being provided at the right time and in the right places
- ▶ what effects or outcomes the services are having
- ▶ whether these services meet the required standards
- ▶ whether the policy and strategy for these services remains relevant.

Who collects the information?

Most publicly funded health services that provide mental health care and addiction services are required to collect information for the Ministry of Health. These include:

- ▶ publicly funded hospitals
- ▶ non-governmental organisations
- ▶ residential and supported accommodation services
- ▶ community mental health and addiction services.

The information that is collected is held in a national mental health information collection called the Programme for the Integration of Mental Health Data (PRIMHD).

What information is collected about me?

The following information may be collected about anyone who receives mental health or addiction services:

- ▶ date of birth
- ▶ ethnicity
- ▶ gender
- ▶ diagnoses
- ▶ legal status (if applicable)
- ▶ type of treatment provided, including where, when and how often
- ▶ statistics relating to the outcome of treatment
- ▶ date of referral to the service
- ▶ date of discharge from the service
- ▶ National Health Index (NHI) number (every New Zealander who uses a public health service has a NHI number)
- ▶ details of accommodation, education and employment status
- ▶ in some cases services are provided to family members and details of these services may be included in PRIMHD

Apart from the information listed above, medical notes are never sent to PRIMHD.

How do I know my information is held securely?

There are strict controls around who can access the information from PRIMHD. The Ministry of Health also monitors the accuracy of the information and maintains its quality and integrity.

How is my privacy protected?

Access to information is governed by the Ministry of Health to ensure use is appropriate and permitted by law.

The Health Information Privacy Code 2020 and the Privacy Act 2020 protect your privacy. You can find copies of both of these documents at your local library or the Privacy Commissioner website.

 www.privacy.org.nz

Are my details disclosed?

Your unique National Health Index (NHI) number is used throughout the health sector to identify you. This allows the health professionals involved in your care to share health information, with certainty that it is about you and not somebody else.

While your name and contact details are held in the NHI database, they can only be associated with your PRIMHD information and disclosed where this is permitted by law. This means while access to information in PRIMHD is tightly controlled, some people can apply to see data about you, such as yourself, a doctor who is treating you, your district health board and approved health researchers.

Who will use the information?

The information in PRIMHD is most likely to be used by:

- ▶ Ministry of Health
- ▶ Health service funding and planning
- ▶ Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission
- ▶ researchers
- ▶ health care providers
- ▶ consumers/tangata whai ora.

Can I see the information held about me in PRIMHD?

Yes, you or a person who legally represents you can see your own personal information held in PRIMHD. To access your information, please email or write the Ministry of Health:

✉ information@health.govt.nz

i Privacy Request

National Contact Centre
Ministry of Health
PO Box 3015
Whanganui 4501

Can I correct information held in PRIMHD?

If you disagree with any information held about you in PRIMHD, you have a right to request a correction. The Ministry of Health has to make the correction or take any reasonable steps to attach a statement saying why you disagree with the information recorded about you.

Please contact your health care provider if you wish to request a correction.

How can I make a complaint?

You can make a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner if you think your personal health information:

- ▶ has been shared with someone who should not have seen it
- ▶ has been used inappropriately
- ▶ has not been stored safely

or if you believe that:

- ▶ a request for access to or correction of your information has not been properly dealt with.

Privacy Commissioner

📞 0800 803 909

✉ enquiries@privacy.org.nz

How do I find out more?

You can talk with your key worker or case manager or clinician or the privacy officer at your mental health and addictions provider about the collection of your information.

Or, you can contact the Ministry of Health:

📞 (04) 496 2000 or 0800 505 125

✉ information@health.govt.nz

📍 PO Box 5013, Wellington 6140

▶ www.health.govt.nz



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