

# Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2017

[2017-215]



New South Wales

## Status Information

### Currency of version

Historical version for 13 September 2019 to 21 January 2021 (accessed 7 May 2024 at 18:03)

Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

### Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

### Notes—

- **Does not include amendments by**  
[Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2020 No 30](#), Sch 4.26 (not commenced — to commence on 22.1.2021)
- **Editorial note**  
The Parliamentary Counsel's Office is progressively updating certain formatting styles in versions of NSW in force legislation published from 29 July 2019. For example, colons are being replaced by em-rules (em-dashes). Text of the legislation is not affected.

This version has been updated.

### Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

File last modified 27 October 2020

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New South Wales

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# Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2017



New South Wales

## 1 Name of Regulation

This Regulation is the [Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2017](#).

## 2 Commencement

This Regulation commences on the day on which it is published on the NSW legislation website.

### Note—

This Regulation repeals and replaces the [Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2012](#), which would otherwise be repealed on 1 September 2017 by section 10 (2) of the [Subordinate Legislation Act 1989](#).

## 3 Definitions

(1) In this Regulation—

**accredited chaplain**, in relation to a public hospital or health institution, means a person—

- (a) who has been accredited for the purposes of providing chaplaincy services in the hospital or institution by the chief executive of a public health organisation that is responsible for controlling that hospital or institution, and
- (b) whose accreditation has not been revoked.

**chief executive**, in relation to a public health organisation, has the same meaning as it has in the [Health Services Act 1997](#).

**health institution**, **public health organisation** and **public hospital** have the same meanings as they have in the [Health Services Act 1997](#).

**the Act** means the [Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002](#).

### Note—

The Act and the [Interpretation Act 1987](#) contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Regulation.

- (2) A reference in this Regulation to a hospital or health institution controlled by a public health organisation includes a reference to a hospital or health institution that is conducted by or on behalf of such an organisation.

**Note—**

Clause 2 of Part 2 of the Dictionary to the [Health Services Act 1997](#) contains a similar provision in relation to references in that Act to hospitals, health institutions and services controlled by a public health organisation or other body or person.

- (3) Notes included in this Regulation do not form part of this Regulation.

#### **4 Definition of “health service”**

For the purposes of paragraph (l) of the definition of **health service** in section 4 (1) of the Act, the following are prescribed—

- (a) the services provided by an accredited chaplain in a public hospital or a health institution controlled by a public health organisation,
- (b) research services conducted by or on behalf of one or more of the following—
  - (i) the Ministry of Health,
  - (ii) the Health Administration Corporation,
  - (iii) a public health organisation or public hospital,
  - (iv) the Cancer Institute (NSW),
- (c) research services conducted pursuant to an agreement with an organisation referred to in paragraph (b) (i)–(iv).

#### **5 Use or disclosure of health information—chaplaincy services**

For the purposes of clauses 10 (1) (k) and 11 (1) (l) of Schedule 1 to the Act, an organisation may use or disclose health information for a secondary purpose if—

- (a) the organisation is a public health organisation, and
- (b) the secondary purpose is the service of an accredited chaplain in a public hospital or health institution that is controlled by the organisation, and
- (c) in the case of a disclosure—the person to whom the disclosure is made is an accredited chaplain for the hospital or institution, and
- (d) the individual to whom the health information relates would reasonably expect the organisation to use or disclose the information for the secondary purpose.

#### **6 Use or disclosure of health information—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law**

- (1) For the purposes of clauses 10 (1) (k) and 11 (1) (l) of Schedule 1 to the Act, an

organisation may use or disclose health information for a secondary purpose if—

- (a) the organisation has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person has or may have engaged in conduct that may be unsatisfactory professional performance, professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, and
- (b) the organisation uses or discloses the information as a necessary part of an investigation of the matter by, or in reporting concerns to, relevant persons or authorities (including a National Board or an investigator appointed under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law by a National Board).

(2) In this clause—

**Health Practitioner Regulation National Law** means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force from time to time, as set out in the Schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* of Queensland and as applied by a participating jurisdiction (within the meaning of that law) other than New South Wales.

**National Board** has the same meaning as it has in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

## **7 Use or disclosure of health information—organ donor registers**

(1) For the purposes of clauses 10 (1) (k) and 11 (1) (l) of Schedule 1 to the Act, an organisation may use or disclose health information if—

- (a) the information relates to whether a person had, during the person's lifetime, given his or her consent, or expressed an objection, to the removal after that person's death of tissue from that person's body (including, in the case of consent, details and any conditions of the consent), and
- (b) the information was obtained from, or comprised part of, the organ donor register administered by Roads and Maritime Services, and
- (c) the information is disclosed for the purpose of providing that information to—
  - (i) the Australian Organ Donor Register, or
  - (ii) the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service.

(2) In this clause—

**Australian Organ Donor Register** means the Australian Organ Donor Register administered by the Commonwealth and referred to in Schedule 1 to the [Human Services \(Medicare\) \(Medicare Programs\) Specification 2015](#) of the Commonwealth.

**NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service** means the NSW Organ and Tissue

Donation Service of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

**tissue** has the same meaning as it has in the [Human Tissue Act 1983](#).

## **8 Exemption for My Health Record system**

(1) Clause 15 of Schedule 1 to the Act does not apply to an organisation to the extent that the organisation includes health information about an individual registered for the My Health Record system.

(2) In this clause—

**My Health Record system** has the same meaning as it has in the [My Health Records Act 2012](#) of the Commonwealth.

## **8A Exemption for certain health records linkage systems**

The following systems administered by the Health Administration Corporation are prescribed as not being health records linkage systems for the purposes of the definition of **health records linkage system** in clause 15 of Schedule 1 to the Act—

- (a) the system known as HealtheNet,
- (b) the system known as Clinical Health Information Exchange.

## **9 Certain public sector agencies to be treated as a single agency**

The following public sector agencies are to be treated as a single agency for the purposes of all of the Health Privacy Principles and any health privacy codes of practice—

- (a) the Ministry of Health,
- (b) the Health Administration Corporation,
- (c) local health districts (within the meaning of the [Health Services Act 1997](#)),
- (d) statutory health corporations (within the meaning of the [Health Services Act 1997](#)),
- (e) the Cancer Institute (NSW).

## **10 Repeal and savings**

- (1) The [Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2012](#) is repealed.
- (2) Any act, matter or thing that, immediately before the repeal of the [Health Records and Information Privacy Regulation 2012](#), had effect under that Regulation continues to have effect under this Regulation.