Information Sharing Initiatives

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Agenda

• What is information sharing?

• Who are the stakeholders?

• How to structure your information sharing initiatives?

• When do you need a data sharing agreement?
What is Information Sharing?

• Service providers within a defined service system sharing personal health information of their mutual patients/clients to facilitate healthcare delivery
What is Information Sharing?

• What are you doing with the PHI?
  – Allowing agent, HIC or electronic provider to access PHI for specific purposes
  – Sharing of PHI with other HICs and/or non-HICs
Who are the Stakeholders?

• Funder/Paymaster
• Lead/Host
• Participant/Recipient
• Technology Provider
How to Structure Your Information Sharing Initiative?

• Contractual agreements needed to set out the responsibilities and accountabilities of all stakeholders
Funding Arrangements

- Funding for administration and for technology
- Various funding sources – Ministry, LHIN, Canada Health Infoway, eHealth, Ontario MD etc.
- Funding may be available to the lead/host
- Funding may be available to the participant/recipient
- Funding relationships will drive governance model of the initiative
- Ensure funding arrangements are documented and clear on what is covered and what is not
Lead/Host Organization

• One organization will often be identified as the lead/host of the initiative

• The lead/host will be responsible for management/administration of the data sharing operations, procurement of necessary goods and services, relationships with third parties
Lead/Host Organization

- The lead/host may be the only party accountable to the paymasters
- The lead/host may be an agent of the group of participants OR may purely provide service to participants
Lead/Host Organization

• If you are the lead/host acting on behalf of the participant group ensure agreement with the group that
  – Sets out your authority to act as agent
  – Defines the obligations of participants
  – Shares/distributes risk among the participant group for actions taken as agent on behalf of the group
  – Outlines governance framework for group decision-making
  – Outlines process for participants to join, withdraw, be terminated
Lead/Host Organization

• If you are the lead/host providing services to participants then ensure a service agreement with each participant that
  – Sets the terms of the service delivery
  – Defines the obligations of the participant
  – Allocates risks between the lead and the individual participant

• Much simpler arrangement
Participant/Recipient

- Very different roles depending on relationship with lead organization
- Always responsible for own site and site access/use of data
Where Does Datasharing Fit In?

• Starting point – what is status under PHIPA?
  – Health information custodian (HIC)
  – Agent
  – Electronic provider
  – Health information network provider (HINP)
  – Recipient

• Status will drive relationships/rules

• May have more than one role
Determining Status Under PHIPA – Health Information Custodian (HIC)

• Person or organization (in one of the enumerated groups) who has custody or control of PHI as a result of or in connection with performing their powers or duties (i.e. provision of health care)

→ List includes: health practitioner, person who operates a group practice of health practitioners, service providers, CCAC, hospital, psychiatric facility, independent health facility, long term care home, laboratory, ambulance service, etc. ..
Agent

- “Agent” means a person that, with the authorization of the custodian, acts for or on behalf of the custodian in respect of PHI for the purposes of the custodian, and not the agent's own purposes …

→ May be context specific i.e. independent practice versus organizational based practice
Status is Not Always Clear ….

- Family health teams – FHT, doctors, combination
- Multi-practitioner clinics – each practitioner/operator of group practice
- Ministry programs
- Occupational health / vocational health
- HICs working for non-HICs
Implications for Information Sharing …

• **Who** is the HIC?
  – PHIPA does **NOT** always prescribe, but responsibilities must still be met
  – Custody **or** control of PHI
  – Ownership vs. custody
    • Ownership is not determinative of status under PHIPA, but important consideration

• **NOT CLEAR** under PHIPA, therefore, **must** set out in contractual agreements
Elements of Data Sharing Agreement

- Compliance with privacy laws
- Roles under PHIPA (i.e. information practices, contact person, access and correction requests, disposal, retention etc.)
- Ownership, transfer and termination
- Operational issues (i.e. access management, audit, monitoring, privacy breach, lock box)
- Privacy and security framework – common rules/minimum standards
When Do You Need a Data Sharing Agreement?

• Recommended
  – When you are sharing PHI among more than one HIC
  – When a HIC will be given access to your clients/patients

• Required
  – HINP must enter into a written agreement with each HIC
Health Information Network Provider

- A person who provides services to two or more HICs where the services are provided primarily to custodians to enable the custodians to use electronic means to disclose PHI to one another

→ IT, operational, privacy support services as a HINP
General Provider Requirements

• PHI to be used only as necessary to perform the services

• No disclosure permitted by provider

• Agents of provider only permitted access to PHI if they agree to be bound by same obligations

• Notification requirement (to custodian) if general requirements are not met or there has been access by unauthorized persons
HINP Obligations

- Written Description of Services
- Audit Trail
- Threat and Risk Analysis and Privacy Impact Assessment
- General Compliance Provisions
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