

Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan card/number: A Fact Sheet

The *Health Information Privacy and Management Act (HIPMA)* sets out rules on limiting the collection, use, and disclosure of an individual's personal health information. Under *HIPMA*, the Yukon Health Insurance Plan number (health number) is considered personal health information, and as such must be protected and kept secure.

As of December 31, 2016 Yukon Government public bodies (departments and agencies) can no longer collect or ask to see your health care card to prove that you are a resident of Yukon. Any agency/organization that is not part of Yukon government has until December 31, 2017 to stop requesting/collecting the health care card number to prove you are a resident of Yukon.

As of August 31, 2016 both public AND non-public bodies can no longer accept the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan card to prove **identity**.

What is the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan number?

Your health number is a unique identification number assigned to you by the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services to enable you to receive publically-funded insured health services in the Yukon. The Health number is found on the Yukon Health Insurance Plan Card (blue card).

Who can ask to see my health care card/collect my health care card number?

- Custodians, as designated under *HIPMA*, may ask for the health care number or card, when providing publically-funded health care (Custodians are generally health care professionals, or organizations/individuals providing or supporting health care services)
- Health and Social Services may ask for an individual to produce their Yukon health insurance card when providing them with a publically-funded health services.
- Any time you are receiving publically-funded health care. For example, when you visit your doctor's office or go for a lab test.
- Health Care Providers (e.g. doctors, dentists, councillors) who are delivering health care services covered under the Yukon Health Insurance Plan require the health number in order to receive payment for the services they provide.
- In addition to custodians, an elections officer, authorized under the *Elections Act*, may collect or use the health number to verify identity and residency.
- Yukon Government departments may request to see a health care card in relation to the provision of publically-funded health care. For example: a person may present their health card to the Department of Justice, so that they can receive care while in custody.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works, Motor Vehicles Branch may collect and use the health number to verify whether you are an organ donor.
- An individual administering matters under *the Workers' Compensation Act*, *the Jury Act*, *the Coroners Act* or *the Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- A person other than a public body may, before January 1, 2018, ask you to prove Yukon residency. After this date, they will no longer be permitted to accept the health card as proof of residency.

What is not a permitted use of the health care number or card?

With very limited exceptions*, the health care number or card may **not** be used:

- To confirm identity,
- To determine Yukon residency, or
- For any purpose that is not in relation to the provision of publically - funded health care.

* You may provide your Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan number to Elections Yukon/Canada to determine residency for the purposes of voting.

Why does my health care card/health care number need to be better protected?

Your Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan (YHCIP) number is unique to you and is connected/linked to your personal health information. Much like how you limit when your Social Insurance Number (SIN) is shared, your YHCIP number needs to be shared only when necessary to provide you with publically-funded health care. Limiting the use of the card/number helps protect your sensitive personal health information from breaches and health care fraud.

What can I use instead of the health card or health care number to prove I am a Yukon resident?

There are many documents, or combination of documents that can prove residency, including:

- Yukon driver's license
- Yukon general ID card
- Utility bill in your name (e.g. ATCO Electric, NorthweTel, municipal utilities bill (water and sewer/property taxes). Please note at this time, cell phone bills are not acceptable.
- Mortgage documentation
- Income tax return (notice of assessment) recent year
- Property tax statement
- Signed residential tenancy/lease agreement
- Social assistance benefit confirmation
- Employment confirmation (signed and on company letterhead)
- Bank statement or a stamped banking form provided from a local bank, credit card statement
- Pay stubs from Yukon employer

It is recommended that you call or visit the website of the department providing the program/service you are applying for, to ensure you have the correct documents on hand.

Why do non-Yukon Government agencies/organizations have an extra year (until December 31, 2017) to stop collecting/using the health care card number to prove residency?

Non-Yukon Government agencies/organizations are given another year to stop collecting/using the health care card number to ensure they have time to update their materials and determine which documents they will require in order for Yukoners to prove residency, if it is necessary to prove program/service eligibility. It was also intended to not cause disruption in the programs and services that are used by Yukoners daily.

I have additional questions about *HIPMA* and what it means to me and my personal health information.

For more information on *HIPMA*, visit www.hss.gov.yk.ca/healthprivacy.php

Custodians and their agents (health professionals/organizations that provide or support health care and others designed under the *HIPMA*), can visit: www.hss.gov.yk.ca/hipmacustodians.php.