

Client FAQ:

Increasing Access to Structured Psychotherapy (IASP)

Data Privacy and Confidentiality

1. What is the Improving Access to Structured Psychotherapy (IASP) Demonstration Project?

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) has been expanding psychotherapy programs to help people who are experiencing conditions such as depression and/or anxiety. One of the programs that the government has introduced is the Increasing Access to Structured Psychotherapy (IASP) initiative.

This initiative aims to increase the availability of evidence-based psychological treatments for individuals with depression and/or anxiety in Ontario. The IASP initiative will give you the opportunity to participate in either individual or group-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) offered by a professional who is qualified to provide psychotherapy. There are 2 parts to this project: the psychotherapy itself and the evaluation of the project.

This document will seek to answer any potential privacy concerns you may have about the evaluation component of the project.

2. Why is the IASP initiative being evaluated?

The IASP initiative is not currently available to all Ontarians experiencing depression and/or anxiety. As a unique program in the province, there is limited information available to identify any areas for improvement within the initiative. Therefore, evaluation of the IASP initiative will be a necessary component to inform future implementation or expansion of IASP across Ontario.

This initiative will be evaluated in an effort to understand how effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centred the service was for clients undergoing treatment. For example, we will explore the following outcomes of the initiative:

- 1) Does the treatment work for individuals who access it?
- 2) The service making good use of its resources?
- 3) The service accessible and helpful for the broad population living in Ontario?
- 4) Do individuals accessing the service have a good experience?

3. Who will be evaluating the IASP Demonstration project?

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has tasked the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Provincial System Support Program (PSSP), and its Drug and Alcohol Treatment Information System (DATIS) with supporting the implementation and evaluation of the IASP initiative.

PSSP was selected for their work with communities, service providers and other partners across Ontario to move evidence to action to create sustainable, system-level change.

4. What types of Personal Health Information (PHI) will be collected?

As a client in this program, your Ontario health card number, basic personal information (e.g. your name, DOB, address, etc.), demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and information from your treatment assessments will be collected.

5. Why is my PHI needed for the evaluation?

The PHI collected will be used therapeutically and to assist in understanding and evaluating the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to improve this project.

For the evaluation, your demographic information will help the program understand who is accessing the program in Ontario and if improvements are required to enable a broader group to access the service overtime. Your treatment information will help the program understand if the treatment is working and if improvements need to be made.

All of the information collected and used in relation to your psychotherapy treatment and evaluating the initiative will be stored securely to maintain your confidentiality and privacy. For reporting on the evaluation, only de-identified aggregate data will be used. In other words, your PHI will be combined with PHI from other participants in the IASP project and there will be no PHI or information presented in any reports that will be able to identify an individual participating in this demonstration project.

6. Who will be collecting my PHI?

As a client in this program, your personal health information will be gathered at referral, intake and throughout your treatment sessions. This information will be securely stored at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care and be transferred to DATIS at PSSP through a secure transfer process.

PHI that will be collected at referral and intake include basic personal information (e.g. your name, DOB, address), demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and information about how you were referred to the IASP initiative.

PHI that will be collected at your treatment sessions include details of treatment sessions, treatment progress and outcomes, and any changes to your personal and demographic information.

Please note that if you are receiving treatment at a clinic not located within a hospital, your personal health information will be securely shared and stored with your clinic's participating partner hospital: Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, or Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.

7. What happens when my PHI is transferred from Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care to DATIS?

As the provincial data repository for the IASP initiative, DATIS will receive information from all participating hospitals. DATIS is responsible for collecting, storing, analyzing and reporting on the IASP initiative. The purpose will be to assess initiative progress and inform future IASP implementations or expansion.

Reports generated by PSSP may be provided to the MOHLTC, regional health authorities (i.e. one or more Local Health Integration Networks, or LHINS), the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program Governance Executive Committee or to the participating hospitals. PSSP will ensure all reports produced **only contain de-identified aggregate data. In other words, there will be no PHI or information presented in any reports that will be able to identify an individual participating in this demonstration project.**

At the completion of the pilot phase, all data will be sent to the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) for further analysis. DATIS will securely destroy all data from the IASP initiative upon transfer to IC/ES.

8. Why does The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) require data, including PHI, from the IASP initiative?

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) has been tasked by the MOHLTC to study the outcomes of the IASP initiative.

IC/ES is an independent, non-profit organization that conducts research to evaluate health care delivery and outcomes in Ontario. As IC/ES researchers are able to access a vast and secure array of Ontario's health-related data, researchers will be able to use these available data sources to further analyze and understand IASP initiative outcomes.

9. Will my personal health information (PHI) remain private and confidential?

At all times your personal health information will be protected and your confidentiality maintained. Protection of your personal health information is governed by law under the *Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)*. This Act sets out rules that healthcare providers must follow when collecting, using, sharing and storing your personal health information. DATIS and CAMH are bound to protect your personal health information under PHIPA.

There are limited circumstances where we may be obligated by law to share your personal health information: if you report that a child is in need of protection from ongoing abuse or neglect; where there is a risk of serious bodily harm to yourself or others (including self-harm); if you report that a health professional may have sexually abused a patient; or if the information is requested for a legal purpose. Your therapist may discuss your progress with a consulting health service provider as part of ongoing supervision or consultation. In these circumstances, your identity will not be shared and your information will be kept private and confidential.

10. How is patient privacy protected and the confidentiality of PHI maintained?

All data from the demonstration project stored in DATIS will be subject to CAMH institutional privacy protocols. CAMH has taken several steps to ensure that there are administrative, technical and physical safeguards in place to prevent the theft, loss, alteration and disposal of your personal health information.

The safeguards include and are not limited to confidentiality agreements, privacy and information security policies and procedures, access to information on a 'need-to-know' basis, firewalls, encrypted servers and secure facilities.

11. Is participation voluntary?

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You are free to participate or withdraw from the evaluation at any time by contacting your therapist. Your ability to access the psychotherapy service or other types of healthcare services today or in the future will not be affected by your decision to withdraw from the treatment or the evaluation. If you choose to withdraw from the evaluation, your personal health information will be removed and destroyed. You are able to ask questions about the treatment and evaluation at any time.

12. Who can I contact if have more questions regarding privacy and confidentiality of my data?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints related to Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care information practices or privacy program, you can contact Brigitte Quesnelle, Privacy Officer, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.

If you feel like your concerns regarding compliance with PHIPA have not been addressed, you may also contact the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4W 1A8
Web: www.ipc.on.ca
Telephone: 416-326-3333 or 1-800-387-0073

IASP EVALUATION DATA FLOW

