



Nutaqqavut 'Our Children' Health Information System (NHIS)

Nutaqqavut 'Our Children' Health Information System (NHIS) is a standardized way to document health information about pregnant women, new mothers and young children throughout Nunavut.

Why is the NHIS important?

Most jurisdictions in Canada have systems that provide information allowing the opportunity to improve health status of mothers and newborns. The Nunavut Public Health Strategy aims to improve the health status of mothers, children and families. The NHIS will be a tool to allow population level evaluation of health issues that are a priority in Nunavut.

The NHIS will allow us to:

- ◆ Document the health of pregnant women, mothers and children
- ◆ Better understand the determinants of prenatal and child health in the territory and within each region
- ◆ Identify factors associated with both child wellbeing and ill health
- ◆ Develop relevant and effective programming and services
- ◆ Evaluate maternal and child health initiatives
- ◆ Illustrate territorial trends



How will the NHIS help HCPs improve care?

- ◆ Allow health centres and regions to identify child health priorities for their communities.
- ◆ Provide specific information useful to HCPs regarding:
 - ◇ Areas requiring more community and individual education during pregnancy and early childhood
 - ◇ Effectiveness of community interventions
 - ◇ Barriers to health prenatally and during childhood

Will the NHIS involve extra work by HCPs?

New L&D, Prenatal, Well-Child and Birth Defect Reporting forms have been created for use with the NHIS. These forms were in the process of significant updating as the NHIS project was beginning. The NHIS fields have been incorporated into the new forms to reduce extra paper work on the part of nurses, midwives and physicians.

Although some forms may initially take longer to complete, as HCPs become more familiar with the forms, the time to complete the forms should diminish.

Ultimately, effective use of the information gathered through the NHIS will allow better health planning and programming, with the goal of enhanced health and decreased demand on HCPs.

What information is being documented?

Some information from the following forms will be documented in NHIS. A copy of the following forms is required for the NHIS:

- ◆ Prenatal Records 1, 2, 3
- ◆ Labour & Delivery Records 1, 2
- ◆ Newborn Record
- ◆ Hospital Discharge Summary
- ◆ Well Child Forms (2,6 & 12mths, 2-3yrs & 4-5yrs)
- ◆ Birth Defect Reporting Form

These forms should be sent to:

Manager, Population Health Information
Nutaqqavut Health Information System
Government of Nunavut
P.O. Box 1000 Stn. 1033
Bldg 1079, 2nd floor
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Is individual consent needed?

Since the purpose of the collection of data for NHIS is to improve the health of the population under the public health strategy, and not to be used for individual care a Request For Decision was sent to Cabinet in June requesting approval to collect and consolidate health data for the purposes of the NHIS, on a mandatory basis with implied consent. This was requested under section 40(c)(ii) of the ATIPP act.

Cabinet approved the request on June 30, 2011. Therefore, all information collected on or after **July 1, 2011** does **not** require consent.

How will privacy be protected?

Privacy will be protected in several ways:

- ◆ Only the data entry clerk for the NHIS will view individual data and only for the purposes of entering it into the database. This access will be subject to strict confidentiality/privacy protections.
- ◆ Each patient will be given a unique code and information will not be associated with individual identity.
- ◆ Information will be made public in aggregate form only (such as yearly rates of prematurity).
- ◆ Information from small communities will be pooled when needed to further protect privacy.
- ◆ Individual privacy is protected by law under Nunavut legislation.
- ◆ This database should not be confused with e-medical records which provide individual information to HCPs involved in care.

For more information please contact:

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