Ethics on Demand – Privacy Breach

Articles:

1. [Doctors snooped on Humboldt Broncos' records, privacy commissioner finds](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/privacy-broncos-patient-records-1.5015014)
2. [**Not all privacy breaches of Humboldt Broncos' records by doctors are 'snooping,' says college**](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/broncos-patients-privacy-breach-officials-1.5016392)

What was the situation?

Saskatchewan's privacy commissioner has discovered that several health care professionals have inappropriately gained access to electronic health records of Humboldt Broncos team members involved in a bus crash in April 2018. The privacy commissioner flagged the e-health records of the Humboldt players to monitor inappropriate access because of the high-profile nature of the accident.

What went wrong?

Breach of privacy Lack of morality Lack of judgement Lack of professional responsibility

Using the Code of Ethics

The [CSMLS Code of Ethics](https://www.csmls.org/About-Us/Our-Members/Code-of-Ethics.aspx) serves to define and expand the inherent ethical concepts contained in the [CSMLS Code of Professional Conduct](https://www.csmls.org/About-Us/Our-Members/Code-of-Conduct.aspx), document expectations of ethical behaviour for all medical laboratory professionals and provide a framework during professional and personal self-evaluation. Consider how adhering to these codes could have prevented the situation. What other codes are applicable?

*Code of Ethics*

* 2.2 Preserve and protect the confidentiality of any information, either medical or personal, acquired through professional contact (in person, through collegial conversations, via medical records etc.) to safeguard patients.
* 2.4 Access information relevant only to the professional task being performed.

*Code of Professional Conduct*

* Medical laboratory professionals shall protect the confidentiality of all patient information.
* Medical laboratory professionals shall be aware of the laws and regulations governing medical laboratory technology and shall apply them in the practise of their profession.

Relevant Reports

[INVESTIGATION REPORT 180-2018, 181-2018, 226-2018 Saskatchewan Health Authority involving Dr. R, Dr. L, and Dr. F](https://oipc.sk.ca/assets/hipa-investigation-180-2018-181-2018-226-2018.pdf)

[INVESTIGATION REPORT 177-2018 Dr. Russom Ockbazghi and Dr. Warren N. Huber of Humboldt Clinic Limited](https://oipc.sk.ca/assets/hipa-investigation-177-2018.pdf)

[INVESTIGATION REPORT 162-2018 Dr. Falah Majid Medical P.C. Inc.](https://oipc.sk.ca/assets/hipa-investigation-162-2018.pdf)