

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Definition and context

A conflict of interest is a situation in which a personal interest could affect a public duty, or a primary professional obligation may be unduly affected by other interests. In health research, conflict of interest situations are more likely to occur where researchers have multifaceted professional roles and obligations. An example of a conflict in health research would be where researchers seek data to which they already have access in another capacity. Increasingly, health research is being supported by and conducted in partnership with a wide range of public and private organizations. This, along with the professional and financial ties a researcher may have with private industry, can compromise privacy, the integrity of scientific investigations and the public's trust.

Under The *Personal Health Information Act*, a trustee may disclose personal health information to a researcher for conducting health research when it is approved by both the Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee (PHRPC) and an institutional research review committee. As part of the application review process for the PHRPC, researchers with a potential or perceived conflict of interest are required to complete and sign a form to disclose information regarding the nature of the conflict and how it would be mitigated.

This conflict of interest identification process is intended to create better accountability in health research and promote public confidence.

Scope of disclosure:

Researchers have to disclose the nature of their relationship with various partners and sponsors when they have multiple roles in the context of a proposed research project. This additional information will help the PHRPC to better assess the need for, and the associated risk of, sharing personal health information with parties beyond the jurisdiction of Manitoba Health and Seniors Care.

Researchers should also identify any potential conflicts of interest in all publications and presentations of their findings.

If more space is needed, attach a separate document.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FOR AN APPLICATION TO ACCESS
PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

Title of Research Project:

Name of Researcher:

Affiliation of the Researcher:

Address:

Please read the definition of conflict of interest on the previous page prior to completing this form. The form is intended for those persons who are disclosing their own conflict of interest, whether real, perceived or potential.

1. Do you have multiple roles within the context of this research or relationships with other organizations which might present a possible conflict of interest?

Yes No

If yes, please provide short descriptions of each of those roles and/or relationships and how any potential conflicts of interest will be mitigated.

2. Do you require access to data sets with identifiable or potentially identifiable personal health information for this research to which you may also have access to in another role (e.g. as a clinician or government employee)?

Yes No

If yes, describe how you will ensure that the information you have access to in your non-research role will not be accessed for this research project.

I have read the definition of a conflict of interest on page one and I understand the requirement for disclosure. The details provided above are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)