



DATA PRIVACY IN ONTARIO HOSPITALS

1. Host Organization: Toronto Grace Health Centre (TGHC) located in the heart of downtown Toronto, with a mission to provide responsive, innovative and exemplary health care to all patients.

2. Role within the organization: I had the opportunity to complete my practicum under the supervision of Jennifer Yu, Health Records Manager at TGHC. I was assigned tasks related to Data Privacy Day awareness which was observed on January 28th, 2020, and drafting Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) policy for TGHC.

3. Project Initiatives:

Data Privacy Day awareness: Collected information on the Internet about data privacy, hospital privacy data breaches in Ontario and advice on protecting personal data. Performed data analysis and presented the summary on hospital bulletin board and TGHC Television Display on the main floor in the hospital.

FIPPA Toolkit: Reviewed all the chapters in the toolkit for drafting a policy for Freedom of Information (FOI) request made towards TGHC. This included analysis of the procedures related processing FOI request for general records only.



4. Impact on TGHC and the community:

Data Privacy Day literature displayed on the bulletin board near the lunch room on the 2nd floor of TGHC increased Privacy Day awareness among the hospital staff. It also aided in educating the staff and the patients via television display on the main floor of TGHC. This information was exhibited on January 28th, 2020 at TGHC.

FIPPA Policy will guide TGHC staff to follow a standardized set of instructions for FOI requests. It will serve the community by providing them access to general records when needed. Hospital staff will have understanding to direct FOI requests to Health Records Department.

5. How did it impact my learning?

I gained valuable personal and professional skills, and some highlights are as follows-

Learned about data privacy laws in healthcare in Ontario.

The practicum made me confident in my research skills – data collection and analysis.

Finally, it created a curiosity in me to explore jobs in privacy and security in health care.

6. Advise to former self:

Stay with the thought “focus on the task at hand and you can complete it”

Reviewing documents is important.

Tend to learn better in a quieter environment.

Keep reading policy related content to maximize my potential in the field.

Tips to future practicum students:

Don't be afraid to try new things in life.

It's okay to feel anxious. Do it with confidence knowing that your course director and Paola will be there to assist you when needed.