

Information Governance for Canadian Healthcare



Positioning the work of the CHIMA IG Summit Participants within the
Evolving Framework of Information Governance for Canada:

A summary document

May 2017

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE (IG) FOR CANADIAN HEALTHCARE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2016, the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) hosted an IG Summit focused on the Canadian Healthcare industry. At this summit participants met to define and explore trends, share leading practices, and identify common challenges and opportunities concerning IG (see Appendix 1 for the list of participants). Key IG challenges include information accountability, data integrity, and information integration. Opportunities exist to support a collaborative approach and structure that will effectively identify and manage risks to information. Collaborators are required at the national level to develop, mobilize, and sustain a national IG framework.

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN THE SUMMIT

Summit participants considered the following broad questions:

- Why is Healthcare IG important in Canada? Why now?
- What should be included in a Canadian Healthcare IG definition and framework?
- What considerations should be included in adopting an IG framework in Canada?

WHY IS HEALTHCARE INFORMATION GOVERNANCE IMPORTANT IN CANADA? WHY NOW?

Defining Information Governance

A Canadian definition of IG is required and is expected to derive from international best practice. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has defined IG as: “An organization-wide framework for managing information throughout its lifecycle and for supporting the organization’s strategy, operations, regulatory, legal, risk and environmental requirements” (AHIMA, 2014).

Why Now?

IG is a unifying opportunity to build *definitions, standards, and a framework for practice* that engenders trust in the Canadian healthcare system and its information management practices. **Although financial healthcare data must comply with standardized rules, regulations, and requirements, there are currently no data quality compliance standards for the healthcare data used to make policy decisions.**

An IG practice framework will standardize information management governance nationally, provincially, regionally, and locally. IG checks and balances are essential for public accountability and ongoing improvement of Canadian healthcare delivery. The development of new IG practice expectations highlights the need for practitioner training and certification.

Key Issues and Trends Identified

Confidence in the information generated in healthcare systems is eroding. A national IG definition and practice standard will support the development of data standards and thereby restore trust in data quality and integrity. IG provides the opportunity to collaborate across practice areas that include health information management, privacy and security, enterprise information management, and information technology. Implications for the public are twofold in that (i) they need to have confidence that information required by their care providers is available – no matter where they are in Canada, and (ii) that their information is accurate and secure. In addition, decision-makers are increasingly reliant on aggregated data for funding and accountability – and yet, **healthcare data quality compliance standards do not currently exist.**

A national IG framework will include **accountability** mechanisms resulting in improvement in information management practices. Development of the IG framework will demand the formal collaboration of significant stakeholders across multiple jurisdictions. **Canadians expect the healthcare industry to manage information effectively and to share it securely, seamlessly, and appropriately among an expanding network of providers.**

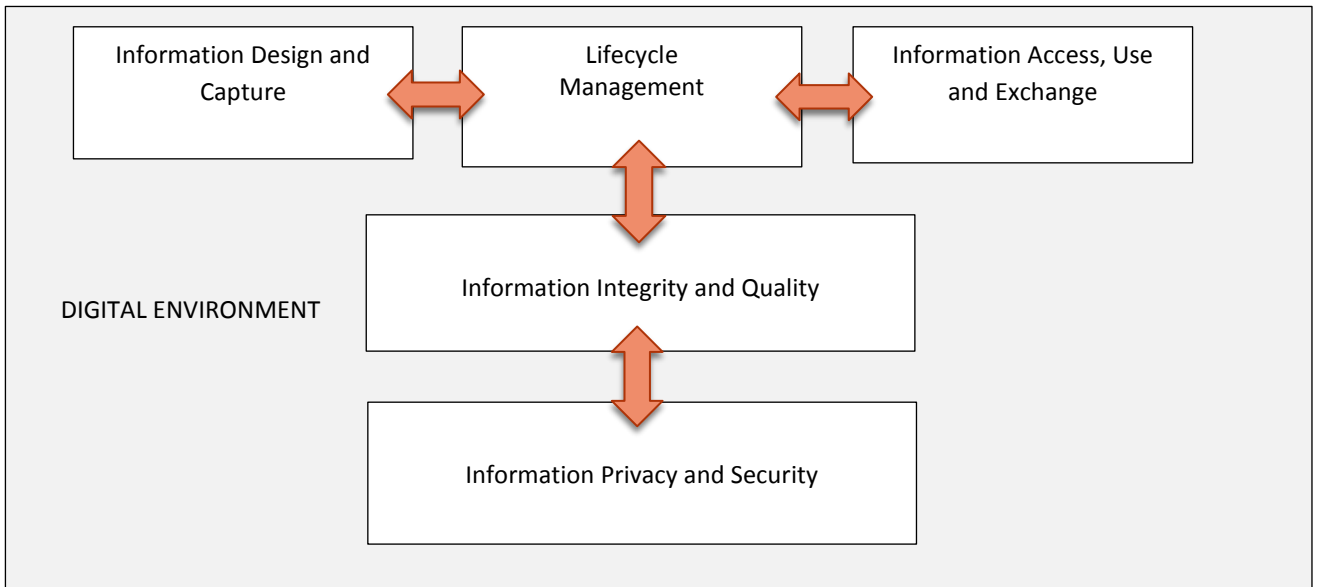
WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A CANADIAN HEALTHCARE IG FRAMEWORK?

Summit participants drew on the expertise of Linda Kloss (former CEO of AHIMA) to identify six components of an IG framework (Kloss, 2013). The six components are:

- Information Design and Capture
- Lifecycle
- Information Access and Exchange
- Information Integrity and Quality
- Information Privacy and Security
- Digital Environment (recognizing the current hybrid environment of paper and digital records)

The six components and their inter-relationships are illustrated in Diagram 1. Example descriptors for each of these components are provided in Appendix 2.

Diagram 1: Potential Components of an IG Framework



The EIM Framework from “Implementing Health Information Governance, Lessons from the Field” © Copyright 2013 Kloss Strategic Advisors, LTD. Used with permission.

The proposed framework, and the IG principles (below) for healthcare that follow, will create the foundation for multi-stakeholder input and collaboration to develop common terminology, standards, and practices that support the health ecosystem and goals of accurate, useful, safe, and secure health information.

WHAT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ADOPTING AN IG FRAMEWORK IN CANADA?

Jurisdictional IG goals can be met through shared funding by government, national associations, industry stakeholders, and leading healthcare organizations. A Canadian IG framework should build upon the principles identified by Summit participants and vetted by industry stakeholders. These principles (modified for brevity) include:

Principle 1: The IG framework must fit the Canadian context and be created within a defined timeline.

Principle 2: The IG framework will support the information lifecycle across the continuum of care; IG will strengthen data integrity across jurisdictional boundaries and levels of care.

Principle 3: The IG framework will ensure compliance through conformance evaluation and enforcement of standards.

Principle 4: The IG framework will include a business model that identifies resources and investors to ensure its viability.

A NATIONAL CALL FOR ACTION

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Deputy Health Minister’s Council initiative for a health information working group is a call for action for a national information governance strategy. Billions of dollars have been invested in health IT infrastructure and we have not yet achieved the vision of “one person, one record”. The burden of disparate data capture continues to increase. Why? We contend it is because there is currently no formalized Canadian IG framework.

Collaboration is required at the national level to develop, mobilize, and sustain a national IG framework. This advocacy paper is a compilation of the proceedings of the IG Summit. We would welcome your feedback and an opportunity to continue to collaborate on this very important subject.

REFERENCES

- AHIMA. (2014). Information Governance: Principles for Healthcare (IGPHC)™. Author: Chicago, IL.
- Kloss, L. (2013). Implementing Health Information Governance: Lessons from the Field, 1st ed. AHIMA: Chicago, IL.

RESOURCES

- AHIMA and CAHIMA Information Governance for Healthcare: AHIMA Leading the Way
- AHIMA and Cohasset Associates 2015 INFORMATION GOVERNANCE IN HEALTHCARE: Benchmarking White Paper
- AHIMA IG and the IG HealthRate™ Assessment tools
- Evolution of Enterprise Information Management in Alberta Health Services, CHIMA 2016
- White Paper on Information Governance of the Interoperable Electronic Health Record (EHR), Canada Health Infoway, March 2007

APPENDIX 1: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 2- Potential Components of a Framework for Information Governance

Input at CHIMA’s Information Governance Summit proposes a 6-component framework based on the Linda Kloss frameworks. To assist in understanding the potential of this framework, example descriptors are provided of the activities and considerations important for IG. CHIMA welcomes the national effort to confirm an IG framework with agreement on the components, definitions, and key expectations/standards within each, as well as expectations for stakeholder leadership and cross-stakeholder collaboration. Such a framework would also provide reference for human resource needs and ongoing training to apply and strengthen IG practice in Canada.

