



NEWS RELEASE – March 10, 2010

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner Issues an advisory for Saskatchewan physicians and patients

Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner is issuing an advisory for Saskatchewan physicians and patients with respect to an Ontario based company that is offering to store patient records.

The Commissioner, Gary Dickson, has identified a number of concerns with the promotional literature produced by DOCUdavit Services Inc. (DSI) and the description of services it is offering Saskatchewan physicians who are contemplating retirement.

Dickson advises that the literature from DSI is not consistent with *The Health Information Protection Act* and the requirements for storage of personal health information.

Dickson has published an advisory discussing the problems with the DSI literature on the OIPC website: www.oipc.sk.ca. These problems have been shared with Saskatchewan Health, Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. This advisory offers guidance to Saskatchewan physicians who are contemplating out-sourcing storage or digitization of patient records.

Saskatchewan patients who have received notice from DSI about how they may access their personal health information that has now been sent to DSI's Ontario office are encouraged to contact their physician. If the physician has retired, those patients should contact the College of Physicians and Surgeons to determine whether another physician has taken over the medical practice and to seek assistance from the College. If their physician has passed away, they should contact the personal representative (Executor or Executrix) of the estate of the deceased physician. In the event that the patient continues to be dissatisfied, they are entitled to send a letter of complaint to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner requesting that the Commissioner investigate.

Patients should be aware that due to a heavy caseload and inadequate staffing it may be 12 to 18 months before a Portfolio Officer can undertake the investigation.

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For further information, please contact:

Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner
503 – 1801 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4B4
Telephone: (306) 787-8350
Toll Free: (Saskatchewan only) 1-877-748-2298
Fax: (306) 798-1603
e-mail: webmaster@oipc.sk.ca
website: www.oipc.sk.ca