

# youth and healthcare rights

## You have a right to:

- know the names, roles and positions of the people serving you;
- know the qualifications of the people serving you;
- easily access health care services that are provided in a safe, comfortable, respectful and confidential environment within legal limits;
- bring a friend or support person with you to an appointment and/or into the exam room;
- be treated with respect and dignity regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, citizenship, education, physical and/or mental abilities;
- access health care even if you do not have a health card;
- access all the information you need, feel comfortable making your own decisions and be supported in your decision making;
- refuse any care, services or treatment;
- share only the information you want with the people serving you;
- refuse the presence of an observer or student;
- engage in fair, safe and clear process of complaint.

## At PPT, you do NOT need:

- to bring in your health card, if your parents/guardians have it;
- to worry about your parents/guardians knowing that you were at the clinic;
- permission from a parent/guardian to access any of our services, including getting a prescription or buying birth control and Plan B. In fact, it is unethical and illegal for healthcare providers to tell your parents/guardians you were at the clinic.

## Confidentiality at PPT

Your privacy is important. We take the following measures to ensure confidentiality:

- We don't acknowledge whether you are a client of PPT, unless you have given us prior authorization.

for youth ages 13-29  
**planned parenthood toronto health services**  
offers drop-in and scheduled appointments.  
call 416-961-0113 or visit [www.ppt.on.ca](http://www.ppt.on.ca)

for youth ages 13-19  
**teen health source**  
offers anonymous/confidential sexual health info for teens and by teens.  
text: 647-933-5300, call 416-961-3200, email: [teenhealthsource@ppt.on.ca](mailto:teenhealthsource@ppt.on.ca)  
chat online and visit [www.teenhealthsource.com](http://www.teenhealthsource.com)

  
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- You can let us know how we can contact you and if you don't want us to leave a detailed phone message.
- You can only book appointments for yourself.
- To ensure we are speaking to you, we will ask for your name, date of birth, health card number, last date of your visit and what kind of tests you had done when you call for test results.

## Clinical Records

- You may be seen by different providers at a clinic depending on your needs. In some cases your medical chart may be viewed by all those who are involved in your care and treatment. This may include nurse practitioners, physicians, social workers or admin staff.
- No one outside a clinic, including a relative or friend, can see your clinical records without your permission. Healthcare providers require you to sign a Consent to Release Information form before they can disclose your personal health information.
- If you want a copy of your clinical records, you will need to sign a Consent to Release Information form. If you want to transfer your records to us or to another clinic, you can tell your provider or ask the front desk receptionist. To transfer your medical records somewhere else, you'll need the name, address and fax number of the new location and provider. This can take up to 30 days and is free at PPT. Some clinics may charge a fee.
- In Ontario, your records must be kept for:
  - o 10 years from the day of your last visit, if you are seeing a clinician.
  - o 7 years from the date of your last visit, if you are seeing a therapist.
  - o If you are under 18 at your last visit, clinic records are kept for 10 years and mental health records are kept for 7 years after your 18th birthday.

## Disclosure Required by Law

There are times when we are required by law to share your information without your prior consent. These are:

- If you intend to harm yourself or another person;
- In the case of apparent, suspected or potential child abuse (for youth under the age of 16);
- If you report sexual abuse by a Regulated Healthcare Professional (i.e. nurse, doctor, social worker etc.);
- If there is a summons for record or testimony by a court of law;
- If there is an ethical violation by a social worker who is a member of the College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.

This information is also found on the Health Services Client Agreement that you sign when you first register at PPT. We will remind you that you don't have to tell a healthcare provider anything that you are uncomfortable sharing. You have the right to choose how much or how little you want to discuss.

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## Positive Test Results for a Reportable, Communicable Infection

Toronto Public Health (TPH) classifies some infections (including some STIs) as reportable, communicable infections. These include infections like gonorrhea, chlamydia, HIV or hepatitis. If you test positive for one of these, the result is sent to TPH. You will be contacted by TPH if:

- the clinic where you got tested can't reach you;
- you don't follow up to get treatment;
- you choose to have TPH contact current or past partners for testing.

## Abuse/Domestic Violence

- For clients over 16: If you disclose that your safety is at risk due to an abusive situation, a healthcare provider will ask you if you want help creating a safety plan, calling the police, and/or contacting a shelter. We do not have a duty to report.
- For clients under 16: If any person suspects a child is in danger of being abused, they must report it to the Children's Aid Society (CAS).

## Complaint Procedure

At PPT, you can make a complaint using a Client Complaint Reporting form that you can find in our clinical reception area or get from our front desk receptionist. You can also make a complaint by email, mail, in person or over the phone.

Additionally, the following agencies can be contacted if you have a complaint or concern about a service provider at any clinic:

- Doctor: [www.cpso.on.ca](http://www.cpso.on.ca) | 416.967.2603
- Social Worker/Psychotherapist: [www.ocswssw.org](http://www.ocswssw.org) | 416.972.9882
- Nurse: [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org) | 416.928.0900 ext. 6989

## Privacy Policy

If you believe that your privacy rights are not being respected, PPT has a privacy complaints procedure. You can find out about the procedure and file a complaint by contacting the Privacy Officer of PPT at [privacy@ppt.on.ca](mailto:privacy@ppt.on.ca) or 416.961.0113 ext. 143

If you are not satisfied with any clinics response to your privacy complaint you may contact the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario:

- Website: [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca)
- Phone: 1.800.387.0073
- Email: [info@ipc.on.ca](mailto:info@ipc.on.ca)

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