



Information and Privacy
Commissioner of Ontario

Commissaire à l'information et à la
protection de la vie privée de l'Ontario

Administrative monetary penalties under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) is committed to protecting personal health information using a flexible and balanced approach that addresses privacy violations while encouraging accountability, learning, and continuous improvement.

As of **January 1, 2024**, the IPC has the discretion to issue administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) as part of its enforcement powers for violations of the [Personal Health Information Protection Act](#) (PHIPA).

Penalties are up to a maximum of \$50,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for organizations. AMPs may be issued for the purposes of encouraging compliance with PHIPA or preventing a person from deriving — directly or indirectly — any economic benefit from contravening the law.

AMPs are just one of the options in the IPC's regulatory toolkit for ensuring compliance with PHIPA. Breaches of PHIPA can be addressed in proportion to their severity, enhancing public trust in the health care system.

A measured approach to enforcement

The IPC will not use AMPs as the default response to breaches. They will generally only be used as an enforcement option for more severe violations of PHIPA, not in cases involving unintentional errors or one-off mistakes.

Our office recognizes that the majority of Ontarians working in the health care system are deeply committed to the protection of personal health information. When mistakes occur, there is almost always a genuine willingness to take responsibility and remedy errors.

The IPC will take a measured approach in response to PHIPA violations, providing education, guidance, informal resolution, and recommendations when less severe violations occur.

Guidance on criteria for AMPs

In cases where AMPs are determined to be an appropriate measure, the IPC will use the criteria set out in regulation under PHIPA to determine the amount.

Learn more about the criteria for AMPs and how the IPC will determine penalty amounts in our [guidance](#).

If you have additional questions about AMPs, email us at info@ipc.on.ca.



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