Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Act) (Our File #: HCS 013 2013)

On April 30, 2013, the Department of Health and Community Services (Department) received your request for access to the following records/information:

“All records pertaining to the Discharge Abstract Database and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System for acute care hospitals in Newfoundland, submitted to the health ministry and/or the health minister and/or Newfoundland hospitals by the Canadian Institute for Health Information for the most recent reporting year. I am not interested in personal information about patients that may be contained in the records. As such, any personal identifiers contained in the records should be removed.”

On May 1, 2013 the Department advised you that the 30-day time period for responding to your request had been extended for an additional 30 days in accordance with subsection 16(1)(a) of the Act as the Department required additional information from you in order to properly identify the records you requested.

On May 6, 2013 your colleague [REDACTED] provided clarification regarding your request by email. She advised that you are requesting the system contents (i.e., data) from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS).

Please be advised that the Department has no records responsive to your request. The Department does not subscribe to NACRS, and therefore has no records that are responsive.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) does not supply records from the DAD to the Department. The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI), in collaboration with the Regional Health Authorities, has responsibility for the data quality of the DAD. To obtain the information you require, you may submit an information request to the NLCHI’s Information Request Coordinator at (709)-752-6503 or via email at IM@nlchi.nl.ca.
For additional information, you can visit the NLCHI website at http://www.nlchi.nl.ca/index.php/request-aggregate-information.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request or you may appeal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2nd Floor, 34 Pippy Place
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500
Email: oipc@gov.nl.ca

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that a copy of our response to your request will be published on the Office of the Public Engagement’s website five business days after the response is mailed to you. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Rachelle Cutler, ATIPP Coordinator at (709) 729-7776 or by email at RachelleCutler@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bruce Cooper
Deputy Minister

/rc