



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

BC Transplant investigates privacy breach

Vancouver – BC Transplant has initiated an internal investigation into a recent privacy breach.

A BC Transplant staff member's car was broken into after business hours. As a result of this criminal act, a bag containing patient information and staff contact information was stolen. The staff member filed a police report at the time of the incident and notified BC Transplant within 12 hours.

Anyone who knows the location of this information is requested to return it to the police immediately or call the Vancouver Police Department at 604-717-3321.

The information that was stolen includes patient names and medical information and staff phone numbers. This information must be portable as it is used by BC Transplant staff who are on call after business hours when/if an organ becomes available.

BC Transplant and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) are taking the matter very seriously and are conducting an investigation. BC Transplant is in the process of contacting all individuals whose privacy was breached.

BC Transplant and PHSA apologize and sincerely regret any stress or anxiety this situation may cause for the patients and the healthcare providers involved.

BC Transplant is working with the PHSA Privacy Office to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent this from happening again, including reminding all staff to ensure they take the necessary steps to protect patient information.

This is in accordance with the PHSA Standards of Business Conduct Policy, which states that confidential information relating to third parties be handled with integrity and discretion, and care must be taken when discussing, handling, or storing confidential information.

For more information, there is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document located at www.transplant.bc.ca.

BC Transplant is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), one of six health authorities in British Columbia. Established in 1986, BC Transplant directs, delivers, and contracts for all organ transplant services across B.C.

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