

**From:** Dr. T Lee

**To:** MCI DataRegulation (MCI)

**Subject:** Public Consultation on Draft Personal Data Protection (PDP) Amendment Bill

Dear Sir,

Currently, working as a General Practitioner in a Primary Care Network, the Ministry of Health informs us that deemed consent from patients is sufficiently obtained as long as a poster is displayed in the clinic to notify patients in general that my clinic is participating in a Primary Care Network and their medical data may be transmitted to Ministry of Health as long as they get the subsidy from Pioneer Generation, Merdeka Generation, CHAS etc for chronic illness management.

I have not done so as I feel each patient, whose data will be sent to Ministry of Health should be told directly, signed consent obtained and given a chance to opt out. I am explaining the issue and getting every patient to sign up or opt out currently.

I do not understand how in the name of expedience, deemed consent is used to over ride patient's rights to privacy?

It seems like a legal double standard. Information flowing to the Government is different.

SMC Ethic guidelines

"4.2.3.1 Responsibility to maintain medical confidentiality

A doctor shall respect the principle of medical confidentiality and not disclose without a patient's consent, information obtained in confidence or in the course of attending to the patient. However, confidentiality is not absolute.

It may be over-ridden by legislation, court orders or when the public interest demands disclosure of such information. An example is national disease registries which operate under a strict framework which safeguards medical confidentiality.

11 There may be other circumstances in which a doctor decides to disclose confidential information without a patient's consent. When he does this, he must be prepared to explain and justify his decision if asked to do so."

Please see the attached documents on patient confidentiality and help me see how deemed consent complies with all the ethical guidelines doctors have been schooled in previously, gels together.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Dr Lee