

Nova Scotia's **Research Consent Framework**



Opportunities for research participation

- **Effective April 28, 2026**, Nova Scotians (19+) now have four clear consent decisions for how their information and samples may be used in medical research.
- Consent is voluntary and can be updated at any time.
- Citizens can choose 'yes' for all, none, or any of the four options

  **Provincial Medical Research Consent Form** 

Advancements in healthcare cannot happen without research. Research cannot happen without you! Participation in medical research (such as clinical trials) helps gain medical knowledge and may provide individuals with access to new treatment options. Currently, some collection, use and disclosure of your health information for research is permitted under the Personal Health Information Act of Nova Scotia. This form provides Nova Scotians with new ways to express their interest in participating in research that will help shape the future of healthcare. Your responses on this form do not affect existing permitted uses under the law.

Protecting your privacy is our priority. Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health will only collect, use and disclose your personal information and personal health information in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. All staff involved in research have professional and legal responsibilities to maintain the confidentiality of all health information and are only permitted to access the minimum amount of information required. If you consent, your health information may be shared with other parties who are involved in the research and may be accessed or stored outside of Canada. As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality of your health information could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.

We are asking for your consent to participate in medical research in four new ways. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to participate, your care will not be affected in any way. You can decide to choose all, none, or any of the options below. Once you complete and submit this form, your decisions will be saved unless you choose to change them. You can change your consent to participate at any point by contacting MSI at 902-498-7008 or 1-800-583-8880 (toll-free in Canada) or by changing your consent options within MSI Online. For further information on this consent form and to learn more about how we protect your privacy, our partnerships, and medical research in Nova Scotia, please visit www.novastudiesconnect.ca.

PXUCMSRJM SPENCERM
0031 372 857

If you consent to participate, we will contact you, when required, by phone or mail using the information you have on file with MSI. If you would also like the option of being contacted by email, please provide it in the space below.

Email Address:

For each option, please mark your choice by completely filling in the circle:

Consent Decision 1

I agree to let Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health use my health information to see if I am a match for medical research (such as clinical trials), and to contact me to discuss my potential participation in research studies for which I am eligible. I understand that my consent applies only to research that is approved by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health, including the Research Ethics Board(s).

☐ Yes, I consent. ☐ No, I do not consent.

Consent Decision 2

I agree that my biological samples (such as tissue and blood) and associated health information collected during my routine medical care may be securely stored and used by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health researchers. I understand that my consent applies only to research that is approved by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health, including the Research Ethics Board(s).

I understand that I will be contacted to provide additional consent before my biological samples and associated information are sent outside of Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health, and/or if genetic analysis which may identify me will be done as part of the research.

☐ Yes, I consent. ☐ No, I do not consent.

Consent Decision 3

I agree to let Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health access, use, and disclose my health information for research undertaken by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health researchers. This may include research to build or improve medical technologies, devices, drugs, or treatments, and will be overseen and approved by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health, including the Research Ethics Board(s). I understand that I will not be contacted to provide further consent for use of my health information for these purposes.

☐ Yes, I consent. ☐ No, I do not consent.

Consent Decision 4

I agree to let Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health access, use, and disclose my health information to external organizations if the research has a public benefit, including, but not limited to, research to build or improve medical technologies, devices, drugs, or treatments, and has been approved by Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health.

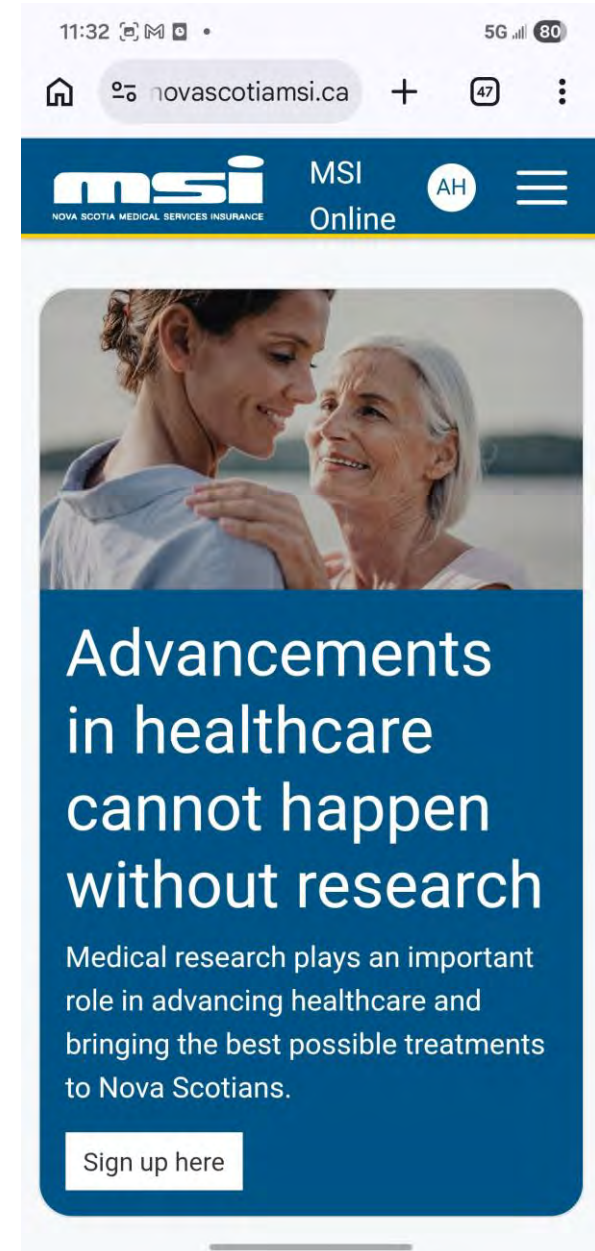
☐ Yes, I consent. ☐ No, I do not consent.

Please sign below confirming that you have read the information in this form and completed your responses.

Signature: Date:

Three ways of providing consent

- ☒ Use the consent form included with your health card application or renewal.
- ☒ Update your consent anytime through the MSI Online Portal: <https://novascotia.ca/MSIonline>
- ☒ Call MSI directly to provide or update your consent. 902-496-7008 or 1-800-563-8880 (toll-free in Canada)



Nova Scotia's Modernized Research Framework – what is included?



Consent Option 1 (Study matching): If your medical record shows you may be a match for a study, Nova Scotia Health or IWK Health can contact you. For example, if you have a history of diabetes, you may be contacted about a diabetes clinical trial. The study team will explain the opportunity, answer questions, and you decide if you wish to participate.



Consent Option 2 (Storage & Use of Biological Samples): This allows samples collected during your care, such as blood or tissue, to be stored and used for future approved research. For instance, a biopsy taken during a colon cancer screening could help researchers study early detection.



Consent Decision 3 (Use of health information for research): Nova Scotia Health and/or IWK Health researchers may use and share your health information for studies to improve care, tests, and treatments. For example, if you have diabetes and have been provided with a monitoring device, your data could be collected from the device to study how frequently the device is being used and its impact on your health.



Consent Option 4 (Sharing with approved external partners): Permission to use health information to support approved R&D led by external partners. For example, Nova Scotia Health may work with a digital health company building tools to detect disease. If all requirements are met, data may be shared to improve the tool, and in return Nova Scotia Health may gain access to the technology at no or reduced cost

Why it matters

- **Research is care.** It leads to real improvements in diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and patient outcomes.
- **This consent model gives people the ability to support progress on their own terms**, with clear visibility into how their information is used.
- This model allows research consent to become part of **routine interactions with the health system** with which citizens are already familiar, rather than something citizens need to seek out separately.
- **It reinforces a modern, ethical research environment** that aligns with national and international standards.
- It ensures Nova Scotians have **more choice, more transparency, and more control** over how their information is used.



Data Access & Oversight

- Consent form developed collaboratively with key stakeholders.
- Electronic data access request (EDAR) launched in parallel with the consent framework.
- Every project must go through a comprehensive review process to ensure information is used responsibly and securely.
- With any research study or partnership, protecting privacy is our top priority. All research follows strict privacy laws and personal information will be securely stored.
- Preferences can be updated at any time



Demo – Consent Selection

Home - MSI Nova Scotia Resident: X

https://resident.novascotiamsi.ca

msi NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE MSI Online CH



Advancements in healthcare cannot happen without research

Medical research plays an important role in advancing healthcare and bringing the best possible treatments to Nova Scotians.

[Sign up here](#)

Welcome COURTNEY

Health Card Information

Update the address, phone number, organ and tissue donation status, and race based and linguistic identifiers for you and any family members.

[View Health Card information](#)

Be part of the future of healthcare

By participating in medical research, you can help advance medical knowledge, support the development of new treatments, and improve patient care. Participation may also provide individuals with access to emerging treatment options.

[Sign up today](#)

MSI Documents

View documents you have received from MSI.

[View MSI documents](#)

Contact Us

Have a question about your Health Card, drug coverage, medical services covered, or another topic? Reach out to us.

[Ask us a question](#)

Submit an MSI Form

Submit a completed form and any supporting documentation related to program registration, financial assistance, and reimbursement.

Replace a Lost or Stolen Health Card

Complete a request for a lost or stolen Health Card.

Thank You



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