

How is my personal health information protected by CCO?

Your personal health information in *Your Symptoms Matter* is protected by *administrative, technical, and physical* safeguards.

Who can I speak to if I have questions about the privacy or security of *Your Symptoms Matter*?

If you have questions about the privacy or security of *Your Symptoms Matter*, please contact the CCO Privacy Office:

Mail: Cancer Care Ontario, 620 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2L7

Email: privacyoffice@cancercare.on.ca

Phone: 416-971-9800 ext. 3200

Who is Cancer Care Ontario (CCO)?

CCO, an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, is the lead organization in Ontario on matters related to cancer control and cancer services.

CCO is the provincial government's principal adviser on cancer issues, with a mission to improve the performance of the cancer system by driving quality, accountability and innovation in all cancer-related services.



Your Symptoms Matter – General Symptoms (ESAS-R)

Patient Education

Oncology Clinic Patient Education

What is *Your Symptoms Matter*?

Your Symptoms Matter (formally known as ESAS) is an electronic tool that allows patients to assess and monitor their symptoms through an online computer program.

- Patients enter symptom severity scores electronically at a computer kiosk.
- Each kiosk contains self-report symptom screening tools that measure a number of common symptoms experienced by cancer patients.
- Your health care provider can view this information and use it to adjust your care plan.

How *Your Symptoms Matter* works

- Patients rate the severity of their symptoms by entering their individual scores electronically via the computer kiosks.
- There are 10 multiple choice questions (9 related to specific symptoms and 1 "other" (for any symptoms not asked) with each symptom rated on a scale of "0 to 10".

How *Your Symptoms Matter* works continued

- A score of "0" means you do not have the symptom, whereas a score of "10" means that your symptom is at its very worst.
- At the end of the survey, there is a question related to your activities and function to examine your day to day tasks, on a scale of "0 to 4".
- Please remember that these questions pertain to the day you are filling out the survey.
- The self-assessments are reviewed by each patient's care team, who can use the information to manage the patient's symptoms more effectively and efficiently.
- This means clinicians can take appropriate steps to help patients manage their symptoms efficiently, including referrals to specialized services (such as dietitians, psychologists, social workers etc.) when needed.

Can I have access to my personal health information in *Your Symptoms Matter*?

Yes. You can ask your health care provider for a copy of your personal health information related to *Your Symptoms Matter*.

Can I ask a family member or other caregiver to access *Your Symptoms Matter* on my behalf?

Yes. You may choose to have a family member or caregiver enter information about symptoms you are experiencing. If you choose to do this, your family member or care giver will access *Your Symptoms Matter* using your health card number.

Who accesses my personal health information?

There are two ways your personal health information may be accessed:

- 1) By your health care providers;
- 2) By a limited number of CCO technical support staff