



**GET  
YOUR  
DOCS  
IN A  
ROW!**



**Medical Identification Number for Canada**

**Numéro d'identification médicale du Canada**

# GET YOUR DOCS IN A ROW!

Within Canada's multi-faceted medical system, the ability to accurately and reliably identify individual physicians is more difficult than ever.

Organizations which manage physician databases encounter various challenges such as:

- confirming the identity of physicians (especially when names, credentials and even licence numbers might change over time)
- matching individuals between databases
- comparing or combining information about physicians with information from other databases

Many medical/health organizations have attempted to resolve this by issuing their own identifiers for physicians; the result has been a proliferation of identifiers, none of which is linkable with other organizations. To address these challenges, the Medical Identification Number for Canada (MINC) system was created.

## MINCs are:

- unique lifetime identifiers assigned to each individual who enters the Canadian medical education or practice system
- serial numbers with no encoded information (except country and profession)
- nationally-recognized
- supported by the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) and the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC)

## MINCs are not:

- a replacement for any existing registration, membership,
- certificate or other identification number
- reflective of any status, rights, credentials or privileges



## Who operates the MINC system?

MINC#NIMC is a federally incorporated not-for-profit corporation which operates the MINC number system.

MINC#NIMC is owned jointly by the FMRAC and the MCC.

MINCs are generated by MINC#NIMC for each physician who registers with any medical regulatory authority in Canada, or who applies to write MCC exams.

### Privacy, confidentiality and security are an important part of MINC's design and operation:

- each medical regulatory authority signs an agreement with MINC#NIMC outlining their respective obligations in the collection, use and disclosure of MINC-related information
- physicians sign a consent form which allows MINC to create a number for them, and for Licensed users to have use of that number
- licensing agreements stress security and confidentiality
- the MINC Privacy Policy is posted on the MINC website at [minc-nimc.ca](http://minc-nimc.ca)
- a Privacy Impact Assessment has been completed for the MINC system

## How can my organization become a MINC user?

Organizations must enter a licensing agreement with MINC#NIMC, and pay a licensing fee. The licensing agreements ensure that:

- organizations will only use MINCs for approved administrative, regulatory or research purposes
- Licensed users use MINCs to exchange information only with other Licensed users
- appropriate security and confidentiality provisions are employed for MINCs and information which may be attached to them

The above information provides a brief outline of the MINC number system. For a complete and more thorough description, consult the MINC website at [\*\*\*minc-nimc.ca\*\*\*](http://minc-nimc.ca)



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