



Medical Identification Number for Canada
Numéro d'identification médicale du Canada

One Physician, One Identifier - for a Lifetime

A National Success Story

The Medical Identification Number for Canada (MINC) is a nationally-recognized unique lifetime identifier system, developed to identify every individual in the Canadian medical education and practice systems. MINCs are issued by MINC#NIMC (a federally-incorporated not-for-profit organization) owned by the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) and the Medical Council of Canada (MCC).

All the medical regulatory authorities in Canada have endorsed the MINC as a primary means of identifying individuals whom they register.

All ten provincial Colleges currently issue MINCs to their registrants, and the territories are considering implementation. The MCC also uses MINCs to identify all the individuals they register to write their exams or who apply to have their credentials verified.

How MINC Works

MINCs are issued to all individuals at the time of their first (even temporary) entry to any aspect of the Canadian medical education or practice systems, including undergraduate students (in most provinces), post-graduate trainees, applicants to MCC examinations, and physicians of any registration status.

To date 100,000 physicians have been issued a MINC.

To obtain a MINC, a physician need only sign a consent form for that organization to release core demographic information to MINC#NIMC for the purpose of establishing that physician's identity. There is no cost to the physician.

Once assigned, a MINC remains unchanged throughout the individual's entire medical career. Assigned numbers are never re-used, even after the death of the individual. Individuals keep the same MINC even if they leave Canada and return, move between jurisdictions, or change their name or registration status.

No information is encoded in a MINC (other than CA for country and MD to indicate medical profession), and a MINC reflects no special privilege, rights or status. A MINC does not at present replace any registration, membership or licence number; it is simply a serial number for identification purposes.

What MINC Can Do For Your Organization

MINC provides a durable and reliable way for your organization to manage your physician databases:

- Internally: to confirm your organization's own registration/membership identifier; to link between applications; to link between departments, divisions or satellite operations.
- Externally: to match or exchange information with any other authorized user of the MINC system, on the basis of a reliable common identifier for each physician.

Potential uses of MINCs include facilitating the verification of physicians' documents; the movement of physicians between provinces; licensure for telemedicine; confirmation of participation in Continuous Professional Development programs or liability coverage; national physician resource planning; merging of physician information from provincial databases; etc.

Because MINCs are issued early in the physician's career, they are ideal for longitudinal identification; because they can be used by a variety of organizations they can facilitate inter-organizational information matching or exchange; and because they are nationally-recognized, MINCs overcome jurisdictional limitations.



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A Few Words on Privacy....

The MINC Privacy Code is based on the Canadian Standards Association's Model Code for the Protection of Personal Information (also reflected in PIPEDA, the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act). A Privacy Impact Assessment has been done to confirm MINC operations comply with every applicable piece of privacy legislation in Canada. For a copy of the MINC Privacy Code, go to our web site at www.minc-nimc.ca. All MINC users must formally agree to follow the MINC Privacy Code within their organizations.

Who Is Using MINC

Any non-commercial organization which maintains databases of physicians or physician information may become a Licensed User of the MINC system for approved regulatory, research, or administrative uses.

Current Licensed Users include:

- Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA)
- Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
- College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
- Canadian Post-MD Education Registry (CaPER)
- Centre for Evaluation of Health Professionals Educated Abroad (CEHPEA)
- Ontario Medical Association (OMA)
- Alberta Medical Association (AMA)
- Saskatoon Health Authority

To Become a Licensed User

To join the growing list of Licensed Users and gain access to the MINC system, your organization must first sign a Licensed User Agreement. You will also be asked to pay an annual fee based upon the number of physicians in your database (the current fee schedule is posted on the MINC web site at www.minc-nimc.ca).

Your organization will then receive technical support to connect to the MINC database, a download of MINCs for all of your current members/registrants, and the ability to obtain MINCs for all new members/registrants.

Ready to become a Licensed User of MINC? Email us at info@minc-nimc.ca.

To Learn More

To learn more about the MINC organization and about becoming a Licensed User, visit our web site at www.minc-nimc.ca or contact:

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