FACTUM

Ontarians are comfortable with secure electronic health records, but most oppose government access without their knowledge or permission

Toronto, ON, November 17, 2026 - New Ipsos polling conducted on behalf of the Ontario Medical Association finds that most Ontarians are comfortable with their health records being stored electronically in a secure provincial system. At the same time, a majority say the Ontario government should not be allowed to access anonymized personal health information from their doctor visits without their permission or knowledge. Government access could also affect what some patients are willing to share with their doctors.

Three in four Ontarians are comfortable with secure electronic storage of health records

Overall, 76% of Ontarians are comfortable having their health records stored electronically in a secure provincial system so that the health-care providers involved in their care could access them. This includes 29% who are very comfortable and 46% who are somewhat comfortable. One in five (20%) are not comfortable, while 4% are unsure.

Comfort with storing health records electronically in a secure provincial system

Response	Ontario overall
Very comfortable	29%
Somewhat comfortable	46%
Not very comfortable	14%
Not at all comfortable	6%
Don't know/Not sure	4%

Six in ten oppose government access without permission or knowledge

A majority of Ontarians (61%) say the Ontario government should probably or definitely not be allowed to access anonymized personal health information from doctor visits without their permission or knowledge. This includes 42% who say definitely no. In contrast, 35% say the government should probably or definitely be allowed access, and 4% are unsure.

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Whether the Ontario government should be allowed to access anonymized health information without permission or knowledge

Response	Ontario overall
Definitely yes	9%
Probably yes	26%
Probably no	18%
Definitely no	42%
Don't know / Not sure	4%

Government access could make some Ontarians less likely to share sensitive information with their doctor

If the Ontario government had access to records from doctor visits, 43% of Ontarians say they would be less likely to share personal or sensitive health information with their doctor, including 26% who would be much less likely. A further 29% would be just as likely to share this information, while 22% would be more likely and 5% are unsure.

Likelihood of sharing personal or sensitive health information if government had access to doctor-visit records

Response	Ontario overall
Much more likely	6%
Somewhat more likely	16%
Just as likely	29%
Somewhat less likely	17%
Much less likely	26%
Don't know/ Not sure	5%

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Combined percentages are calculated before rounding

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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos survey conducted from October 27 to 28, 2026, on behalf of the Ontario Medical Association. For this survey, a sample of 500 Ontario residents aged 18 and older was interviewed online via the Ipsos Omnibus panel. Quota sampling and weighting were employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online surveys is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the overall survey is accurate to within ±5.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontario adults been surveyed. The credibility interval is wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to, coverage error and measurement error.

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