

PRIVACY UNLOCKED

~ Your source for privacy best practices ~

10th Edition ~ March 2026

~ Same/Similar Name Privacy Breaches ~

Health PEI has recently been experiencing an increase in the number of privacy breaches caused by sending patient information to the wrong person. The issue relates to recipients with the same last name or the same/similar first and last names.

Actual examples include:

- Two health care providers with the same last name receiving patient results intended for the other provider
- Emails containing patient information being sent to the wrong person with a similar name/email address

What can you do to help prevent this type of breach?

- Ensure that you include and confirm the first and last names of individuals, as well as their role and work location on referrals, requisitions, and other communications
- Check that you are sending information to the correct person and if you are not sure, call to confirm or start by sending a test email with no PI or PHI included

Available Resources

[Data Safeguards Guidance](#)

[Email Guidance](#)

[Privacy & You Video Training](#)

