

About the Provincial Health Insurance Number and the GGC Health Form (H.1)

Why is the provincial health insurance number optional on the Health Form?

GGC legal counsel advised us that GGC did not have a demonstrated need for collection of this information.

However, Guiders have been very concerned about not having the health insurance number easily available in case of an emergency, fearing that girls will not receive prompt treatment. Another concern was raised that adequate emergency contacts are not being provided during events.

Therefore, although it poses risk with respect to privacy of information, we are including a space on the Health Form for the provincial health insurance number. Providing this information is *optional*. It is not a requirement of participation. This information is confidential and private; therefore, we can only ask parents/guardians to include it if they wish to do so.

What do I do if parents/guardians choose not to provide the information?

All Members *must be welcomed and not denied participation in all activities* even if this information is not provided. Before a minor is treated, the health care professional is responsible for getting a parent's /guardian's permission. GGC is not responsible for this process. In any case, all jurisdictions have a timeframe in which a health card number can be supplied before direct billing is done.

Whether parents/guardians provide this information or not, Guiders are encouraged to emphasize the importance of providing emergency contact information at parent meetings.

How do I handle this private and confidential information?

As *Safe Guide* procedures indicate, all health information is private and confidential. The Health Forms must not be left in a place where others can see them. Keep them in a sealed envelope. Do not store them at your meeting place. Only provide them to health care professionals or first aiders, or others who need information on allergies or other health care issues at an event.

If your event has a central first aid station, health information must be in locked storage containers accessible by those who are managing the event and its health care.