



## Cross-Border Sharing of Mental Health Information

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*A joint position statement developed by the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and approved by the CPA Board of Directors on July 23, 2015 and the APA Board of Trustees on August 10, 2015.*

The American Psychiatric Association and the Canadian Psychiatric Association agree that the indiscriminate sharing of information regarding police assistance for suspected mental health issues with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) threatens the right to privacy of patients. Further, the subsequent distribution of these records to American

border authorities without scrutiny or guidelines can lead to discrimination on the basis of mental illness. It is imperative that criteria be developed to guide the Canadian agencies in the use of CPIC data, and to advise Canadian police services in the management of sensitive medical information so that health record confidentiality remains protected.

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