

Frequently Asked Questions About EHR Connect and Health Information Exchange For Consumers and Patients

What is the ILHIE?

The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) is a statewide, secure computer network for sharing patient health information between healthcare providers to improve patient care

What are Electronic Health Records (EHRs)?

An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a secure electronic version of your medical history including much of the same information currently in your doctor's paper files such as your name, birth date, the medications you have been prescribed, allergies, lab test results, age, weight, and contact information

What is EHR Connect?

EHR Connect is a service of the ILHIE that allows your doctor's office, specialists, hospitals, clinics and labs share your electronic health records over a secure computer network

What are the Benefits of EHR Connect?

- EHR Connect makes you the most important member of your health care team. It gives you control over your own health information and lets you play a bigger role in your overall health
- Your doctors have access to a complete picture of your medical history to make better informed and safer decisions about your care
- Health information that could save your life is quickly available in an emergency
- You won't need to complete as many forms every time you visit another doctor
- Your medical information is stored in a safe and secure system and can only be seen by your doctor, with your permission
- You don't have to take the same medical tests over again.
- EHR Connect- Can lower the cost of health care

Why Should my Health Information be Shared?

Currently, your health information may exist in many different locations. For instance if you visit a specialist, your primary health care provider may not have access to that information. Health care providers can make better decisions about your care when they have access to your entire up-to-date health history such as the medications you take, allergies, lab tests and more. This kind of information can be lifesaving in an emergency. Also, the inability to access your records might result in repeated tests which cost you time and money

Where Does the Information Come From?

Your health information comes from your participating health care providers including your doctors, clinics, laboratories and hospitals

Who Can Access my Health Records?

Only your doctor or authorized health care professionals involved in your health care with correct information and passwords can create, view, update or exchange your records. The EHR Connect service keeps track of who views your record, what they look at and when

How Can Sharing my Personal Health Records Help in an Emergency?

When you need care, you might be far from home or unable to speak or remember important information such as the names of your medications or allergies. Allowing a health care provider to access your information can speed the delivery of your care and avoid repeated tests, medical errors, extra costs and can even help save your life

Can I Have Access to my Private Health Records?

By law you already have the right to get a copy of your medical records from the health care organizations that made them. Some of these organizations can give you access to your medical records online, not just on paper, but not all of them have the capability today

Is my Shared Health Information Kept Private?

Yes. Federal law protects your health information on paper and in electronic files. Your information is encrypted and sent over private and secure computer connections. All electronic health records follow strict rules and are shared through a secure network between your doctor's offices, hospitals, emergency rooms or clinics etc. Of course, no electronic system is completely secure and there is some risk of unauthorized access or misuse of information

Specially Protected Health Information Question – (To Come)

Your Choices

You have several choices for sharing your information through EHR Connect

Your Choices	Action you need to take	General Medical Information	HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse and Genetic Testing Protected Information
Share all your medical information only	Do nothing	Available to all participating health care providers	Not available until you complete an Opt-Back-In Consent Form
HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse and Genetic Testing Protected Information	Fill out an Opt-Back-In consent form available from your participating health care provider or at (TinyURL Adress needed) and consent to share this specially protected information	Available to all participating health care providers	Available to all participating health care providers
Remove all your medical information from EHR Connect	Fill out an Opt-Out consent form available from your participating health care provider or at (TinyURL Adress needed)	All your medical information is deleted from your record and will not be available to your participating health care providers, even in an emergency	Do nothing. Your specially protected medical information has been blocked by your health care providers from EHR Connect until you Opt-Back-In

Can I Opt Out of EHR Connect?

Yes. Participation is voluntary. If you do not want your personal health information to be shared, you have the right to Opt Out or restrict the sharing your health information. However, placing this restriction on your health information means that your health records will not be available even in the case of a life threatening medical emergency

How Do I Opt Out?

1. Complete the “Opt Out Form.” Click here and/or scroll down for the form. ([HYPERLINK to form](#)) Once completed, for your protection, the ILHIE must verify your identity before processing the form. You will need to have the form signed by a notary public. The notarized form may be faxed to XXX-XXX-XXXX, scanned and emailed to XXX@XXX.gov or mailed to the following address

ILHIE

100 W, Randolph Street, Suite 4-550

Chicago, IL 60601

2. You may also ask you health care provider to “Opt Out” for you.

It may take several business days (TBD) for the restriction of your personal health information to be enforced. Once your request has been processed, your electronic health information will no longer be available to any of your care providers and may limit their ability to provide you the best possible care

Can I Change my Mind and Opt Back In?

Yes, you can change your mind and Opt Back In to EHR Connect at any time

How Do I Opt Back In?

3. Complete the “Opt Back In Form.” Click here or scroll down for the form. ([HYPERLINK to form](#)) Once completed for your protection, the ILHIE must verify your identity before processing the form. You will need to have the form signed by a notary public. The notarized form may be faxed to XXX-XXX-XXXX, scanned and emailed to XXX@XXX.gov or mailed to the following address.

1. ILHIE

100 W, Randolph Street, Suite 4-550

Chicago, IL 60601

2. You may ask you health care provider to “Opt Back In” for you.

It may take several business days (TBD) for the restriction of your personal health information to be removed

For more information about your privacy rights, please refer to your health care provider’s **Notice of Privacy Practices**

Draft – 08/30/13

Opt Out Form

Opt Back In Form