



## CLINICAL PORTAL LOGIN:

[Login](#)
[Home](#)
[NMHIC Overview](#)
[News](#)
[Partners](#)
[Privacy Info](#)
[NMHIC FAQ's](#)
[Contact Us](#)

## NMHIC FAQ's

### What is NMHIC?

The New Mexico Health Information Collaborative (NMHIC) is the name of the statewide health information exchange (HIE) network and the name of the collaborative that supports the network. LCF Research is the nonprofit organization that staffs and operates NMHIC.

### What does NMHIC do?

NMHIC allows authorized clinicians to view a patient's healthcare information on the NMHIC web portal after obtaining patient consent. The patient information displayed on the web portal is gathered from all of the healthcare facilities that have previously treated the patient, and that are part of the NMHIC network. All of the information from the patient's previous visits is integrated into a Summary Patient Record for easier clinician review. This capability makes care coordination easier, faster and less expensive.

### How does NMHIC work?

Patient information from each healthcare provider is stored on edge servers at each provider's facility. Providers have been adding information to their NMHIC edge servers for some time. Every time new patient information is stored on an edge server, a message is sent to the NMHIC Master Person Index (MPI) to determine whether that information is from an existing patient or a new patient. If the new information is for an existing patient, the MPI will link the new information to an existing patient identity; but if it is a new patient, the MPI will create a new patient identity. NMHIC now has more than 1.3 million unique patient identities in the MPI, out of a total state population of 2 million. This design, where patient information is stored at each provider's facility, while the Master Person Index and Record Locator Service are centrally operated at the LCF Research data center, is called a hybrid HIE architecture.

### How many healthcare organizations participate in NMHIC?

The NMHIC HIE network currently has access to patient information at 14 hospitals, 2 major medical groups, and 3 independent laboratories. NMHIC has been in production providing electronic lab results and patient encounter information from hospital emergency departments to the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) since June 2010. Pilot tests of clinician access to patient information will begin in June 2011. Authorized clinicians will have access to this information one patient at a time, but only with written patient consent.

### What other capabilities does NMHIC have?

NMHIC is also participating in the Social Security Administration (SSA) Disability Determination pilot test and expects to be in production sending standards compliant patient information (Continuity of Care Documents [CCD standard]) over the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN) to SSA by October 2011.

### What challenges does NMHIC have?

Until now, NMHIC has been very successful obtaining federal contracts to develop and expand the New Mexico statewide HIE network, using a business model that provides access to patient information over the NMHIC website only to healthcare providers. NMHIC now faces these two challenges:

- During the next few years, federal funding is expected to diminish. Therefore, LCF Research is working with the executive decision makers from the NMHIC stakeholder community to develop a financial sustainability model and obtain commitments to fund this model.
- Consideration by the LCF Research Board to determine if and how access to patient information through the NMHIC network will be extended beyond healthcare providers to payers and/or researchers. The New Mexico State HIE Strategic and Operational Plan (approximately 170 pages) is available for download on the NMHIC web site ([www.nmhc.org](http://www.nmhc.org)).

## OPTING-OUT OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What happens if I opt-out of the Health Information Exchange?

State and federal governments are encouraging all health care providers to use an electronic format for the exchange of health care information. It is believed that the use of an electronic exchange of health care information will lead to better health care and may lower health care costs.

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO OPT-OUT OF THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE, YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE TO DOCTORS THAT ARE TREATING YOU, EVEN IN THE CASE OF AN ACCIDENT OR A LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL EMERGENCY.** You will have to tell your doctors all your medical history, diagnoses and test results or have them provided to your doctors by having other health care organizations mail or fax the records to them.

UNDER NEW MEXICO LAW, THE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ANY HARM TO YOU CAUSED BY YOUR DECISION TO OPT OUT OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

You are not required to allow your medical records to be accessed through the Health Information Exchange. Your health care benefits from your health insurance or government program will be the same. You will still get medical treatment based on the information available to your health care provider, including and any information you provide to your health care providers.

### What happens if I change my mind about Opt-Out?

If you change your mind about Opting-Out of the Health Information Exchange you can, at any time, Opt back into the Health Information Exchange. You can notify the New Mexico Health Information Exchange of your decision by following the instructions on [www.nmhc.org](http://www.nmhc.org).