

Connect HIE Patient FAQs

What is a health information exchange (HIE)?

A health information exchange (HIE) is a secure, private computer network that connects electronic health information systems of different health care organizations. It allows them to share health information of patients they have in common.

What is Connect HIE?

Connect HIE is a health information exchange created by Allina Health. Visit www.AIM-Network.org/ConnectHIE to learn more about Connect HIE.

What does Connect HIE mean for me?

Connect HIE will allow your health care providers to access your health information from other health care providers for your care and treatment. By having the most up-to-date information they will be able to provide you with safe and efficient care.

What Information is shared through my Connect HIE record?

Your record may have information from hospital and clinic visits such as:

- Conditions, diseases or health problems
- Medicines
- Vaccinations
- Allergies
- Lab and test results
- Imaging reports
- Medical notes from health care providers.

Visit www.AIM-Network.org/ConnectHIE to learn more about what information is included in Connect HIE.

Who is able to see my health information?

Health care providers who are participating in Connect HIE will be have the ability to access to your health information for your care. This may include your doctor, nurses, medical assistants or other staff involved in your care.

Your health information is not shared with governmental departments or insurance companies through Connect HIE.

Visit www.AIM-Network.org/ConnectHIE to learn more about what organizations are part of Connect HIE.

How is my consent obtained for the HIE?

As required by law, each organization participating in Connect HIE will ask for your consent to share your health information within the HIE. The consent form may be different for each organization.

What if I do not want to participate?

If you do not want to participate in Connect HIE you may “opt out.” Simply choose “No” on each organization’s consent form that applies to HIE data sharing. Please talk about your choice to “opt out” with your doctor, if you wish to not have your information available in the HIE.

Can I withdraw consent?

Yes. You can decide at any time to withdraw consent for your information to be viewed in the HIE. Tell the organization that you want to change your consent related to HIE data sharing to “No.” Remember that consent is stored for each organization participating in Connect HIE. You may need to change your consent at more than one organization.

I previously “opted out” of Connect HIE but I changed my mind. How can I be a part of Connect HIE?

You may contact the health care organization and tell them you want to change your previous decision to “opt out.” You will need to sign a consent form. Remember that consent is stored for each organization participating in Connect HIE. You may need to change your consent at each organization you previously chose to “opt out.”

Can I control which health care providers see my health information in Connect HIE?

Only those health care providers who are involved with your care and treatment will access your health information in the HIE. Once you give consent to an organization contributing your data to Connect HIE, any health care provider participating can see your information.

What is the benefit to the health care provider?

Health care providers who are able to view health information in Connect HIE can have more complete information to use when making diagnoses and treatment plans. Access to medicine lists increases patient safety. Viewing the results of previous tests and procedures can help speed up the process of providing treatment and reduce the need to repeat tests.

Can I decide which types of information will be shared?

No. When you give consent for an organization to share information, all of your information shared by that organization will be in Connect HIE. However, your providers will only access it as necessary to support your care and treatment.

Will my health information be publicly available on the Internet?

No. Health care organizations participating in Connect HIE take the privacy and security of your information very seriously. Health care providers are only allowed to access Connect HIE using a secure login. The transmission of your information is encrypted. This means your information is converted into a format that protects it from unauthorized parties.