

Use of Wisconsin Health Information Exchange grows

Our job is not yet done. The WHIE system continues to improve. The number of doctors using the WHIE system is growing.

Doctors across the region will be able to access key parts of your previous health records. This will occur even if you've switched doctors, or if you are going to a new doctor for specialty care.

Ask your doctors if they use the WHIE system. If not, encourage them to do so!

What other people like you think about Health Information Exchange

Most Americans support the creation of an HIE network.

More than 80% voiced strong support in a recent telephone survey. This support occurred regardless of political beliefs, age, education or economic status. Those polled said they believe HIE will enhance quality and efficiency of the health care system.*

*eHealth Initiative/POS, July, 2006

What you need to know

A key requirement of a regional HIE is protecting patient privacy. WHIE understands and supports this concept. Patients can feel confident that WHIE uses current security tools to protect their data.

Individual records will only be shared with providers that are directly involved in that patient's care. Personal data will not be provided to insurance companies. Data will not be used for marketing.

WHIE wants to earn the trust of both patients and doctors. In doing so, we work together to improve health care for all.



Wisconsin Health Information Exchange

www.whie.org



Wisconsin Health Information Exchange



Regional Electronic Health Information Exchange

- Gives your doctors the right data at the right time for the best care.
- Gets your information to those who need to know – wherever you go for your health care.
- Helps emergency care staff to make the right decisions when you need critical care.
- Protects your information in a secure system.



"Great way for health records to get from doctor to doctor to improve treatment."

— Consumer Research, eHealth Initiative, July 2006



Wisconsin Health Information Exchange


For further information please visit us at:

www.whie.org

WHIE thanks the eHealth Initiative for providing material for this brochure.



When it comes to your health, *time matters...*



Each year in the U.S., there are more than 900 million doctor office visits and 100 million emergency visits.

At each one of those visits, you may be asked to fill out the same paper forms. But you may have filled them out at your

last visit. And at an emergency room visit, your health data is vital to your care. If you are sick or injured it may be hard to remember all your health details.

What if your health data was kept in a secure system? And it was always ready for the doctors and health care staff that take care of you? This would mean better communication and better care.

This brochure describes how this happens.



The Wisconsin Health Information Exchange (WHIE) is a national leader in this field. The secure network being provided by WHIE helps patients and doctors.

- Your doctor can securely review your key medical data. No need for you to complete forms over and over again.
- Your health care providers can access only the data they need to know. Only when they need to know it.
- Vital medical history is easier for your doctor to access to help care for you. The data will be there in an emergency even if you cannot respond or remember.



Why do we need health information exchange?

Health care records are gathered and stored in many different places – most often on paper and often with no backup copy. Even when information is stored in computers, it is often not connected to other computers, especially in other health care sites.

Doctors spend 20 to 30 percent of their time searching for information. Many times physicians don't find the information they need in the current paper-based patient record.

Extra costs occur when tests are ordered again because the original test results cannot be found.

The lack of rapid access to patient health records is the source of thousands of medical errors each year.

“Having access to your medical records in an emergency is a clear reason to move toward use of secure electronic health information exchange.”

How might this electronic health information exchange help me?

In an emergency:

For your safety, your vital health data will be there to help care for you without delay. For your best treatment, emergency staff will quickly know about your:

- Allergies
- Health problems
- Medications
- Prior visits

In routine care:

Your doctor will have fast access to your records such as:

- What tests have been performed: it will be easy for your doctor to discuss these with you and avoid ordering unnecessary studies.
- Medications: so they can be reviewed and refilled or changed if needed.
- Visits with specialists or other care providers: your doctor will be able to better plan your care when results can be shared.

In other ways:

If you get sick while visiting others or after moving to the other side of town, don't worry. Your health records will still be available when you visit a new health care site. In case of a disaster, your health care records won't be lost.

Why now?

Health Information Exchange (HIE) systems are being installed across the nation. The goal is to control costs and improve quality of care. WHIE is committed to this goal.

Government officials encourage improved sharing of data between doctors. Former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson is a leader in the field. Current Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has proposed a plan for building HIE across the state.

These efforts create a win-win situation for patients and their doctors. We will work together as partners to improve the health care system.

