

# A Patient's Guide to Understanding Health Information Exchange

A Health Information Exchange (HIE) is a platform to share data electronically. It allows a patient's doctors, pharmacists, and other health care providers to view and share the patient's medical information. The medical information is encrypted to protect the patient's privacy.

Sharing important patient information safely and quickly means providers can make better health care decisions for the patient. Sharing information with an HIE also allows providers to:

- Avoid readmissions.
- Avoid medication errors.
- Decrease duplicate testing.
- Improve diagnoses.
- Increase quality, safety, and the speed of care.
- Reduce costs of care.

The federal government has rules for providers to share information through an HIE. These rules make sure providers cannot prevent patients from receiving complete and adequate care at other facilities.

The exchange of this information follows federal and state laws. To access information on the HIE, providers must state they are working with you and there is a health care relationship that requires access to the information that is shared.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services only shares content to the following categories to protect patient care profiles.

- Admission to the facility
- Vitals
- Allergies
- Medication orders
- Lab results
- Smoking status
- Transfers
- Discharges

## Sharing additional information

As the patient, you have the right to share other information, such as diagnoses and summary of care. This must be done on a case-by-case basis with your signed consent.

## Opting out of all future electronic information sharing

As the patient, you have the option to completely opt out of having your information stored in an HIE moving forward. This will not delete information already in the HIE. Complete and submit the Health Information Exchange Patient Choice Form, F-03276 to start this process. You can download the form at

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/f03276.pdf>.

