

Health Information Exchange (HIE): What and Why?

The Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network is committed to the quality and coordination of your medical care. That's why we're rolling out health information exchange (HIE) for our network providers.

HIE is the secure transfer of health information among health care organizations. Without HIE, your health information is shared by telephone, fax, mail, or limited computer networks. These processes can waste time and money. They can also make it harder for your providers to offer you high-quality care.

In the network's HIE, a provider can view information from another provider or hospital quickly and securely.

How HIE benefits you

- Your providers can make more informed decisions about your care with a more complete record of your health.
- You may save time and money by avoiding unnecessary or duplicate testing, clinic visits, hospital stays, and emergency room visits.
- Your providers can more easily review all your current medicines. This can help reduce your risk of allergic reactions to medicines or harmful interactions between two or more medicines.
- In an emergency, providers can quickly view your vital information.
- You may be able to avoid duplicate paperwork. You may also be able to avoid giving the same medical information to many different providers.

Access to your information

HIE shares your information for treatment, payment, and care operations only with:

- Providers directly involved in your care
- Providers coordinating your care
- Authorized support staff

Your privacy and security

Your information is protected and secure. HIE uses several security safeguards. Providers must obey all health privacy and security laws including HIPAA.

Your choices about your medical information

You can choose to opt out of HIE. This means your health information will not be available in the network HIE. To do this, ask any network provider for help.

- After you opt out, providers participating in the network HIE won't be able to see your health information. You will lose the benefits of sharing your information through HIE.
- You can opt back in at any time.

If you have questions about your privacy rights, read your provider's Notice of Privacy Practices. If you need a copy of that Notice, ask your provider.

Contact

Every provider and organization in the VHAN HIE has a Privacy Officer. When you have a question, ask for the Privacy Officer.

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