

Are there privacy risks?

Yes. There is always a risk the safeguards will not work and that someone will obtain, view or use your health information for impermissible purposes. No system of safeguards is perfect. The electronic search capability of HIEs and the large number of participating providers and health insurers and their staffs will increase the risk of a privacy or security breach. Although the HIE can audit and identify each authorized user who has accessed your record, this cannot prevent unauthorized access.

Can I choose not to participate?

Yes. We call this a decision to “opt out.” If you opt out, your health information will not be available for sharing through a HIE, with these exceptions:

- In NeHII, your name, address and date of birth will appear and your opt-out status will also be available
- In CE, to avoid exchange between providers you must opt out separately with any provider who holds your information. Once you opt out of CE, we will not share your information with other providers via CE, but other organizations may continue to share with us until/unless you opt out from their exchange

Your decision to opt out will not affect your ability to receive health care. Participating in a HIE is not a condition to receiving care. **Your decision to opt out applies only to sharing your information through the HIE.** It does not affect other sharing of health information by other means, including by fax or email.

How can I opt out?

NeHII

You may opt out in three ways:

1. Email: Requests for opt out can be sent to support@nehii.org
2. Phone: 402.506.9900 x 1
3. Website: www.nehii.org

Care Everywhere/eHealth Exchange

You may opt out by completing an opt-out form.

1. Mail form to: Health Information Management,
10304 Crown Point Ave, Omaha, NE 68134
2. Fax form to: 402.559.1340 or 402.559.9991

Can I hold back certain records I don't want my health insurer or other providers to see?

No. HIEs are not set up to exclude specific visits, tests or episodes of care or to prevent access by specific providers or health insurers. Opting out generally means that no one will be able to access your health information through the HIE, except as described in this brochure. If you don't want your health information made available to participating providers, health insurers or public health agencies through the HIE, you should consider opting out of the HIE and not participating at all.

If I opt out, can I change my mind later?

Yes. If you opt out, you may change your mind and revoke that choice. To opt back into either Health Information Exchange, see contacts listed under “How can I opt out?”

Be aware that when you revoke your earlier decision to opt out, all of the information that has been gathered by participating providers, health insurers and public health agencies since you opted out will be available for sharing through the HIE.

Where can I get more information?

For NeHII, you can:

- Call the NeHII help line at 866.978.1799
- Visit the NeHII website at www.connectnebraska.net

For Care Everywhere and eHealth Exchange, you can:

- Call the privacy officer at 402.559.5136
- Email the Privacy Office at Privacy@nebraskamed.com

Note: HIEs and the participating providers and health insurers reserve the right to change policies and the information in this brochure over time. Use the contact information included for the most current version and information.

Electronic Health Information Exchange



Participating in the Health Information Exchanges (HIE) described in this brochure is voluntary. However, your health information will be included in the HIE unless you opt out. If you do not wish to participate, you must opt out. Please read this notice carefully and decide if you wish to participate. It is your information and your choice.

What is a Health Information Exchange?

Health information exchanges involve specialized software, infrastructure and safeguards to seamlessly and securely share electronic health data among the various medical record systems of participating doctors, hospitals and, in some cases, insurers across the country. By using a HIE, participating doctors can quickly find health information about you, such as your lab and X-ray results from other participating providers who have treated you in the past and provide information. Nebraska Medicine and UNMC uses three HIEs – Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII), CareEverywhere (CE) and through CareEverywhere we also have access to eHealth Exchange.

What is NeHII?

NeHII is a state-wide, internet-based, health information exchange. NeHII is sponsored by Nebraska health care providers and health insurers who share and use your information for treatment, payment, limited health care operations and research purposes. For example, by using NeHII:

- Your participating doctors, hospital or pharmacy can quickly verify your insurance coverage by checking your enrollment status with participating health insurers
- Your participating providers can make required reports to public health agencies regarding immunizations, communicable diseases, etc.
- Your participating health insurer can electronically obtain information needed to process your claim from the records of participating providers
- Researchers can use de-identified information and/or limited data sets to conduct research to improve health care for all Nebraskans. A “limited data set” is health information of which direct patient identifiers have been removed
- Allows population-based research on a broader scale than is currently possible without sharing patient-identified information

What are CareEverywhere and eHealth Exchange?

CareEverywhere is a health information exchange exclusively for treatment purposes that is integrated into the Nebraska Medicine/UNMC electronic medical record (EMR). CareEverywhere is used to exchange patient information with other health care providers. Using the same pathway, we are able to access eHealth Exchange, which includes government agencies such as the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Defense. eHealth Exchange was developed by the U.S. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology as an initiative for the exchange of health care information.

How does sharing health information improve patient care?

- Your health care record goes where you go, reducing or eliminating the need to fill out lengthy forms to get your records transferred among providers
- Participating doctors have more information about you for better decision-making – whether you seek care in the local area or travel far from home
- You may receive quicker, more effective care – especially in emergency situations, where every moment counts
- You may avoid unnecessary duplication of lab tests or imaging procedures
- Participating health insurers can quickly obtain the information needed to process your claim
- Health care costs are reduced overall

How is my health information currently shared?

Currently, your health information may be shared between health care providers and insurers by telephone, fax, mail, or through computer networks. **HIEs make the process of sharing health information more efficient.** HIEs allow one participant (for example, a doctor) to locate records from another participant (for example, a hospital) in a matter of minutes. This can be critical in an emergency and may result in your providers having a more complete and accurate health record.

Who will have access to my health information?

NeHII: You can obtain a current list at www.connectnebraska.net. Participating providers (such as doctors, hospitals and pharmacies) and health insurers (for

their own insured or for insureds in group health plans they administer), public health agencies, and their staffs and contractors will have access. NeHII staff and contractors will have access to provide technical and administrative support.

CE and eHealth Exchange: You can obtain a current list of participating members at <https://sequoiaproject.org/ehealth-exchange/participants/>. Participating providers include physicians, hospitals and health care systems and government agencies (i.e. Department of Defense, Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration).

What health information will be shared?

Information that has been made available by a participating provider will be shared, including laboratory and X-ray results, medications, allergies, drug reactions, immunizations, transcribed treatment records. Records created before the HIE was implemented may not be available.

Records regarding the following are generally not included in NeHII:

- Alcohol or substance abuse treatment programs
- Emergency protective custody proceedings
- Predictive genetic testing performed for genetic counseling purposes
- HIV and other STD testing or treatment of minors consented to by the minor
- Mental health treatment in Iowa

However, associated information may be available or referenced in the record.

Records regarding the following are generally not included in CE and eHealth Exchange:

- Psychiatry encounters
- Substance abuse treatment encounters
- Student health

How is my privacy protected?

The HIEs and participating providers and health insurers use robust technical and administrative safeguards to keep your health information private and secure – including encryption, password protection, usage auditing software, as well as specialized training, policies and procedures. All participating providers and health insurers must agree to follow these policies. All participating providers and health insurers are also regulated by federal and state privacy laws.