



Health Information Exchange

A Health Information Exchange (HIE) allows physicians to electronically and securely share a patient's health record with other providers involved in your medical treatment in order to deliver the best care possible. The benefits of accurate, up-to-date information include reduced risk of mistakes, less chance of drug interactions, fewer repeated tests and easier second opinions. Physicians can send and receive e-referrals and share lab results and other medical information that can help improve the coordination of patient care. Also, by spending less time tracking down information, doctors can spend more time on patient care. In addition, you will not have to repeatedly provide your medical history at every doctor's visit and remember the results of previous medical tests and prescriptions you are currently taking.

The health information exchange also makes a patient's information more secure than having it contained in paper files. Physicians and patients do not have to compromise on privacy and security as it pertains to keeping electronic health records safe and secure as HIEs have stringent security and privacy measures in place. Only authorized health care providers have electronic access to patient health information.

In order for treating physicians and medical staff involved in your care to access your medical information through a HIE, your signed consent form must be on file. For more information on your local health information exchange and how to provide your consent, please visit one of the following websites:

Healthcare Information Xchange of New York (HIXNY)
Capital Region (Albany) & Northern New York
www.hixny.org

Rochester Regional Health Information Organization
www.grrhio.org

HEALTHeLINK
Western New York (Buffalo)
www.wnyhealthelink.com