

Your choice: Making your health information available to health care professionals

A guide for patients



Providing doctors and nurses who care for you with quick access to your health information when and where it is needed ensures you get the best possible health care. A health information exchange, or HIE, is a service that allows health information to securely move electronically between doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who care for you so it can be accessed when it is needed for treatment purposes. That's why we participate in the Keystone Health Information Exchange.

How is my health information exchanged?

Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals participating in an HIE have nearly immediate access to a patient's health information from another HIE participating health care professional. Otherwise, a patient's health information is transmitted between health care professionals via telephone or fax, which often causes treatment delays.

Is my health information being exchanged today?

Yes, health information from this facility is being exchanged electronically with other health care professionals to help coordinate your care.



What health care information is available?

Only health care information that is relevant to providing care is exchanged between health care professionals. This includes lab/test results, medications, allergies and medical history. Mental health, HIV and substance abuse information is managed following state and federal guidelines.

Is my health information protected?

Yes, privacy and security safeguards are in place to meet and exceed federal, state and local requirements, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) act. Access to this system is regularly audited to ensure health information is accessed appropriately.

What if I don't want to make my health information available?

Your participation is voluntary—you can choose not to allow your health information to be exchanged. This is called opting out. By doing so, your health information from this facility will not be made electronically available to other health care professionals. If you do not wish to have your health information

available through the health information exchange, you must opt out at each participating health care facility you visit. There is not a universal opt-out option.

If you do not want this health care professional and/or facility to make your health information available through the HIE, please notify the staff at our registration desk.



570-214-9438

KeyHIESupport@KeyHIE.org

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

If you have additional questions about KeyHIE or opting out that are not covered in this brochure, please contact KeyHIE Support at KeyHIESupport@KeyHIE.org or 570-214-9438.