

Patient Educational Fact Sheet

About Health Information Exchange

You probably receive medical care from a variety of providers, including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and home care agencies. Each provider keeps its own medical record about you, including information about which medicines you use and which tests you have had.

If your health care providers can share this information with one another, they can provide you with better care — especially in an emergency. Giving providers involved in your care a better picture of your medical history, prior treatments, test results, and allergies helps them make the most accurate diagnosis and provide the best treatment.

About Brooklyn Health Information Exchange (BHIX)

BHIX is a not-for-profit organization connecting healthcare providers-including hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, pharmacies and clinical laboratories-throughout Brooklyn.

BHIX's secure computer system helps your doctors, nurses and other health care professionals access your health information. Providers who use BHIX can provide you with better treatment and improve the quality of medical care they deliver to all patients.

Please review this Brochure carefully to help decide if you wish to give permission for any of the BHIX Participating Provider Organizations ("Participating Providers") to access your medical information through BHIX.

How BHIX Improves Care

BHIX's vision is to improve the quality, efficiency, and safety of care by making more timely health care information available to your providers.

Quality: With more complete, up-to-date information available, your physicians will be better able to provide you with the right treatments and services. Increased clinical information helps to support improvement in care coordination and disease management and allows Participating Providers to improve the quality of care delivered to all patients.

Efficiency: Since your physicians will be able to view health reports from other facilities, you may not have to take the same tests again. You may also not need to repeat giving drug and medical information to multiple Participating Providers.

Safety: Your medication history will be included in BHIX, so your physicians will be able to make better decisions and prevent errors in prescribing medicines and other treatments for you.

What Information will be Accessed

Health Information Sources: Information accessed through BHIX comes from a variety of Health Information Sources. These Health Information Sources may include Participating Providers, other health care providers (such as pharmacies and clinical laboratories), health insurers, the New York State Medicaid program and other health information exchanges. A complete list of current Health Information Sources may be found at www.bhix.org. This list will change from time-to-time as BHIX continues to grow.

Types of Information: Information accessed through BHIX includes ALL of your medical information, including but not limited to, sensitive information related to HIV/AIDS, mental health, genetic disease or tests, alcohol or drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and family planning.

About Your Right to Control Access

As a patient, you have the right to control whether any Participating Provider can access your medical information. Each Participating Provider involved in your care must obtain your Consent separately to access your medical information through BHIX. The decision to participate in BHIX is voluntary. No Participating Provider will deny you medical care and your insurance eligibility will not be affected if you do not participate in BHIX.

BHIX Patient Consent Form

Give Consent: In order to allow your Participating Provider to access your medical information through BHIX, please indicate that you Give Consent on a BHIX Patient Consent Form and return this form to your Participating Provider at your next visit. If you consent, only individuals involved in giving or improving the quality of medical care and authorized by your Participating Provider to use BHIX will be able to access your medical information.

Deny Consent: If you do not want to allow your Participating Provider to access your medical information through BHIX — *even in an emergency* — please indicate that you Deny Consent on a BHIX Patient Consent Form and return this form to your Participating Provider at your next visit.

A copy of the BHIX Patient Consent Form can be found at www.bhix.org or obtained at your Participating Provider.

BHIX Withdrawal of Consent Form

Withdrawal of Consent: If you wish to change your mind and Withdraw Consent for your Participating Provider to routinely access your medical information through BHIX, please complete a BHIX Withdrawal of Consent Form and return it to your Participating Provider at your next visit or give it to your Participating Provider's Privacy Officer. A copy of this form can be found at www.bhix.org or obtained at your Participating Provider.

Important Note about Emergencies

If you Deny Consent using the BHIX Patient Consent Form, your Participating Provider will not be able access your medical information through BHIX — *even in an emergency*.

How BHIX Protects the Privacy and Confidentiality of Your Information

Participating Providers follow New York State and Federal privacy and confidentiality laws. Participating Providers are permitted to look at your health information through BHIX only if they are involved in giving you care or improving the quality of medical care they deliver to their patients. BHIX maintains safeguards to prevent your medical information from being obtained by others for improper purposes.

How You Can Get More Information about BHIX

If you have a question, ask to speak with the Privacy Officer of any Participating Provider. He or she will be able to answer your questions about BHIX or find someone who can help you. You may also email us at info@bhix.org.

For further information about BHIX, please check our website at www.bhix.org. As BHIX continues to grow, the website will include the latest listing of Health Information Sources and a complete list of Participants with contact information.

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