



HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE PATIENT RELEASE

This health care office or facility, and its employees, medical staff members, and associated practitioners, participate in electronic health information exchange through the East Tennessee Health Information Network ("etHIN"). etHIN is part of a regional computer network that will link to statewide and nationwide health information networks for health information exchange, or "HIE." HIE allows secure information exchange and assists in the efficient delivery of health care.

Our office or facility, and other health care providers, health information exchanges, governmental agencies, medical examiners/coroners, organ procurement organizations, and disaster relief organizations participating in HIE, access, use, and disclose health information through etHIN's network and HIE for the following purposes only: (1) to provide treatment to an individual; (2) to coordinate health care and provide case management services; (3) to obtain payment-related information; (4) to engage in public health reporting; (5) to provide decedent information to coroners and medical examiners; (6) to help with organ procurement and donation; and (7) to provide identification and location information in the event of an emergency (e.g., if a patient is unconscious or to assist with disaster relief efforts).

The exchange of information through etHIN and connected networks is governed by federal and state law. Health information that may be available through etHIN and HIE includes patient "demographic" information (e.g., name, address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, primary care provider, emergency contact, next of kin, etc.); problem lists describing active complaints; allergy and intolerance information, including associated adverse events; medications lists; insurance and "encounter" information (e.g., reason for visit/admission; chief complaint); and clinical information, such as laboratory and radiology data; procedure results; discharge summaries, procedure and outpatient notes; EKGs; immunizations; vital signs, and problem lists.

Certain health information is already exchanged through etHIN, including disclosures of health information that are required by law (e.g., to meet public health reporting requirements) and for other permitted purposes described in our HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices. However, you can choose whether to allow certain health information to be viewed for treatment purposes through etHIN. Allowing your health information to be viewed through etHIN for treatment purposes helps collect medical records you have in different places where you get health care and makes them available electronically to health care providers treating you.

Right to Opt Out of Display of Health Information for Treatment Purposes

If you do not want your protected health information ("PHI") to be viewed through etHIN for treatment purposes, you have the right to "opt out" of having it displayed for such purpose. In fact, you have three choices: (1) you may participate in having your PHI displayed through HIE; (2) you may opt out of having your PHI displayed through HIE for treatment purposes; or (3) you may opt out of having your PHI displayed through HIE for treatment purposes, except in the case of a medical emergency. Your decision to opt out effects viewing of admission, discharge, and transfer summaries, transcriptions, labs and radiology reports, and images for treatment purposes only and does not, for example, remove such information from electronic storage or affect information exchange for non-treatment purposes (e.g., for public health reporting or payment purposes). Further, your opt-out decision does not apply to data exchanged for other permitted or

