

Provider Fact Sheet

What is Midwest Health Connection?

Midwest Health Connection (MHC) is the state-designated Health Information Exchange (HIE) network that provides secure and private electronic services for sharing health information. MHC services improve communication, efficiency, patient safety and quality of care by allowing doctors and other caregivers immediate access to a patient's up-to-date health information based on a comprehensive health record. MHC services enable health care providers to advance the quality of health care and patient satisfaction, reduce the cost of health care and improve the overall health of Missourians.

What is the MHC network?

It is a secure, electronic network that enables providers, hospitals, labs and other health care organizations to share patient records quickly. This network combines clinical data from all of the

patient's participating providers into one comprehensive health record. The record is sent in real-time to the participant's electronic health record (EHR) system or a secure web portal so a provider can receive it at the point of care. All clinical data sent and received on the MHC network belongs to the patient and their provider.

Why should patients share their health records through MHC?

MHC allows a patient's care team to access health records from within their EHR system quickly and at the point of care. MHC's network connects providers, hospitals and labs so that a patient's comprehensive health record can be accessed quickly and securely. With a more complete picture of a patient's health, a provider can take better care of a patient in the doctor's office, hospital or emergency room.

What information will MHC share?

MHC will share a patient's health record with providers who are treating them. A patient's record includes information about their past care, such as:

- Doctors' visits
- Immunizations
- Illnesses
- Surgeries
- Medicines
- Allergies
- Test results
- Treatments



The patient's health records come from all of their health care providers and may include sensitive information such as mental health, genetic testing, and abortion and family planning information.





Are the health records private and secure?

Yes. MHC's electronic network is more private and secure than fax or mail. Only a patient's health care team and MHC authorized users can access records. Providers who use the MHC network are required to follow all state and federal laws to keep a patient's records private. It is a serious state and federal crime for someone to wrongly access or share health records.

Who will see a patient's records?

Only authorized health care providers, organizations and professionals involved in the patient's treatment, coordination of care, quality improvement and activities related to the management or payment of the patient's health care. Medical record information is protected under federal and state privacy laws; access, use and disclosure of medical records will comply with those laws.

Is there a cost for patients to join?

No. There is no cost for patients to share their health records through MHC. It is a free service for patients.

Do patients have to share their health records through MHC?

No. Patients have a choice about sharing their health records. If they decide not to share their records, all providers will be unable to access them, even in an emergency.

How do patients share their records through MHC?

Patient records are automatically shared unless a patient decides to Opt-Out of sharing their health records through the MHC network. MHC Participants who provide Part 2 data into the HIE network must have the patient sign an Opt-In form to share their data.

Can patients change their mind about sharing their records?

Yes. Patients can change their mind at any time by completing and submitting the appropriate form. Patient records that were shared prior to such a change will remain in a provider's records, as allowed by law.

