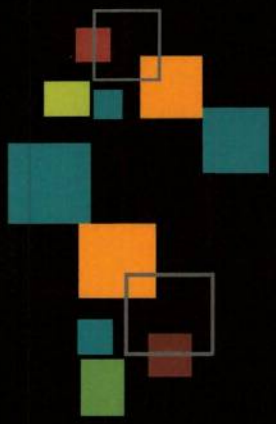

NDHIN
North Dakota Health Information Network

Welcome to the NORTH DAKOTA HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

What is the NDHIN?

The North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN) connects providers like you to other providers through our secure, online network to share your patients' electronic health records. We have created a road-map of data for a more thorough understanding of your patients' conditions, which allows for up-to-the-minute decisions and faster diagnoses. With NDHIN you will reduce patient intake time, minimize duplication of tests and paperwork, access the most recent updates to health records, and cut costs while increasing mobility. Our network ensures your patients' data is protected and confidential. The NDHIN is connected to a national network known as the eHealth Exchange. eHealth Exchange participants are able to securely share information across the US, supporting consistent care for traveling individuals as well as 'snowbirds.' **Improving Healthcare. Empowering you.**

How do we share this information with our patients?

The NDHIN staff will work with you on ways to notify patients of your participation in the NDHIN; Each patient must be notified of your participation in the NDHIN and information of their right to Opt Out of Participation or Opt Out Except in Emergency. We provide a sign to display and informational brochures to hand out to your patients to assist you, along with other easily accessible online tools.

Sample script for patients:

"Our facility participates in the North Dakota Health Information Network or NDHIN. The NDHIN is a secure network that safely connects your doctors' electronic health record systems. Only authorized individuals will be able to access information from your medical records. The NDHIN offers many benefits to patients, but you have the right to Opt Out or Opt Out Except in an Emergency. If you do Opt Out, emergency room doctors and other medical professionals may not have access to your complete medical information which could save your life in some situations."

Or:

"Our facility participates in the North Dakota Health Information Network or NDHIN. The NDHIN is a secure network that safely connects your doctors' electronic medical record systems. Only authorized individuals will be able to access information from your medical records. The NDHIN offers many benefits to patients. Having access to your medical records allows your doctors to know more about your medical history and obtain critical information such as allergies and medication. This information can also be used to prevent unnecessary tests. You do have the right to opt out, however, if you do opt out, emergency room doctors and other medical professionals may not have access to your complete medical information which could save your life in some situations."

NDHIN Contacts

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How does it work?

The robust exchange of health information known as query technology, is a tool used by providers to pull information from other facilities as they providing medical services to the patient; information such as medications, allergies, past medical history, diagnostic results (i.e. labs, radiology), immunizations, and advance directives. The exchange of this information can result in better quality health care, improved health outcomes, and may save a patient's life. NDHIN Communicate is a secure electronic system that allows providers to exchange unstructured or structured documents with other providers through a secure email service. Essentially, protected health information is securely pushed from one provider to another.

How does this benefit our patients?

Participation in the NDHIN allows authorized providers to view patient health information everywhere a patient receives care in and outside the state of ND. Patients benefit from this safe and secure exchange of information; clinicians making decisions have a summary of the patient's care available at their fingertips. The system documents what information is shared and with whom. Patients can be comforted knowing their health information is being used to provide better-informed care.

What if a patient does not want their information searchable?

By default, a patient's medical information may be searched through the NDHIN, however participation is completely voluntary. A patient has options to completely Opt Out of having their information available through the NDHIN, or they may Opt Out Except in an Emergency, where a their information is accessed for emergency situations only. A patient will NOT be denied medical care if they decide to Opt Out (not to have their medical records searchable through the NDHIN). However, if they do decide to Opt Out, emergency room doctors and other medical professionals may not have access to their medical information when needed, which could be critical to saving their lives.

Even if a patient chooses not to participate in the NDHIN, a treating health care provider will still be able to utilize the NDHIN as a way to receive lab results, radiology reports, and other data sent directly to any treating health care provider, similar to how providers receive records fax, mail, or other electronic communication methods.

How can a patient Opt Out of Participation in the NDHIN or change a prior election?

If a patient requests to Opt Out of participation in the NDHIN, Opt Out Except in an Emergency, or change a prior election they must complete the Opt Out/Revoke Opt Out form that can be found at http://www.ndhin.org/consumers/opt-out-participation

Additional Resources:

- Provider Education Video – http://www.ndhin.org/video/provider-education-video
- Provider Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - http://www.ndhin.org/providers/faq
- Consumer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - http://www.ndhin.org/consumers/faqs
- Provider Training tools - http://www.ndhin.org/providers/training
- NDHIN Policies - http://www.ndhin.org/policies
- Opt Out/Revoke Opt Out Form – http://www.ndhin.org/consumers/opt-out-participation
- Additional Participation Display Signs – http://www.ndhin.org/providers/education

Reach out to the NDHIN with any questions!

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