



What does this mean to you and your family?

Consenting to allow your health information to be shared between your health care providers offers major benefits, including:

- **Improved Emergency Treatment:** Medical staff immediately knows about your allergies, health problems, medications and prior visits, helping them care for you without delay.
- **Well-informed Providers:** Participating doctors will have immediate access to important information. Knowing more about you before they recommend treatments helps you avoid unnecessary tests and procedures, medical mistakes and costly medical bills.
- **Improved Care Across Multiple Providers:** Access to information about care you received elsewhere gives a better, more complete picture of your health.
- **Increased Efficiency:** Have you ever been asked to complete the same medical tests over again? Have you ever waited while your provider and staff searched for key information about your care? The Point of Care Exchange will help eliminate those problems.

Worried about privacy and security? Don't be.

Protecting patient information within the Point of Care Exchange is top priority. Information is tightly secured by your provider's IT system, and can only be shared in accordance with State and Federal laws to protect patient information, including HIPAA privacy and security rules.

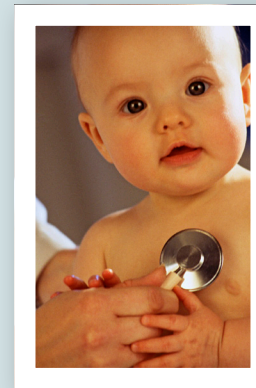


For more information visit
sdhealthlink.org

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Exchanging information. Changing lives.

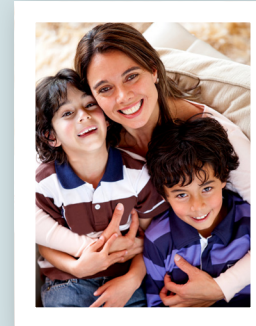
Point of CareExchange



Congratulations!

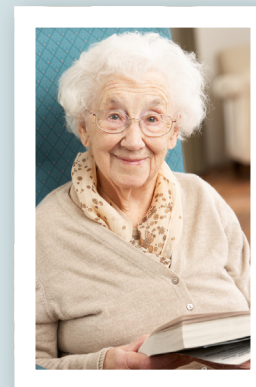
Your health care provider is joining, or has already joined, the South Dakota Health Link Point of Care Exchange.

The Point of Care Exchange is designed to help health care providers save time, improve care and reduce costs.



It supports the safe and secure exchange of a limited set of information from your electronic patient chart, which may include:

- Medical history
- Diagnoses
- Medications
- Immunization dates
- Allergies
- Radiology reports
- Lab and test results
- Event Notifications



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can access my health information/medical record in the Point of Care Exchange?

Your medical information is kept private and secure. It is only viewable by authorized health care providers while providing care to you or a family member. Support staff at your health care provider's office may be able to access basic information, such as your name and address, but they may NOT have access to your private medical information.

2. How do I know my information is kept private and secure?

State-of-the-art systems are used to secure records to the greatest degree possible and prevent access by unauthorized persons. All systems must comply with the security rules of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), including amendments made by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act.

3. What are some of the technical safeguards my providers use to protect my health information when it is stored in an electronic health record?

The HIPAA Security Rule requires providers to assess the security of their electronic health record systems. The Rule sets technical safeguards for protecting electronic health records against the risks that are identified in the assessment, including:

- Access controls such as passwords or PIN numbers that limit access to your information to authorized individuals.
- Encryption of your information, which means your health information cannot be read or understood except by someone who can “decrypt” it, using a “key” made available only to authorized individuals.
- Audit trails, which record who accessed your information, what changes were made, and when they were made, provide an additional layer of security.
- Workstation security, which ensures that computer terminals that can access your health records cannot be used by unauthorized persons.

4. What if I don't want to participate?

When your providers join the Point of Care Exchange, a limited set of information from your electronic patient chart will automatically be included. If you prefer not to participate, you **MUST** opt out.

You may opt out by following the procedure found on our website at sdhealthlink.org/opt-out. Consider speaking with your doctor(s) or other medical staff before you make this important decision! Remember—once you opt out, your health providers won't be able to see your electronic health records:

- If you are in an emergency
- If you are hurt and can't talk to health providers caring for you

If you choose to opt out, you can change your mind and opt back in at any time. While participation in the Point of Care Exchange may improve your care, you will continue to receive health care from your providers if you decide to opt out.