



Notice to Patients About Loyola University Health System's Use of Electronic Health Information Exchange

This notice describes how your health information may be shared electronically by Loyola University Medical Center and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and your choices about sharing this information.

Many health-care providers use an electronic health record system (EHR) to record health information about their patients. The EHR helps your health-care providers coordinate your care.

Loyola University Medical Center and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital (Loyola University Health System) and other health-care providers are participating in Health Information Exchanges. A Health Information Exchange is a service for patients who may receive care at more than one health-care provider using an EHR. Being able to see your health information from other health-care providers may help your providers take care of you in a safer, more effective and timelier manner.



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SYSTEM



Gottlieb
Memorial
Hospital

Q *What is a Health Information Exchange?*

A A health information exchange is a health information computer network that enables health-care providers' electronic health record systems to communicate with each other and share patients' health information electronically.

Q *What are the benefits of Health Information Exchanges?*

A Allowing a health-care provider to access your health information through Health Information Exchanges may improve the quality of your care.

- Your doctors will have quicker access to a more complete picture of your medical history and may make better informed and safer decisions about your care.
- You may not need to complete as many forms every time you visit another doctor.
- You may not need to take the same medical tests over again.
- Your health-care costs may be lowered.

Q *Why should my health information be shared?*

A Currently, your health information may exist in many different locations with different health-care providers. For instance if you visit a specialist who is not affiliated with your primary care doctor, your primary care doctor may not have access to the specialist's information. Health-care providers may be able to make better decisions about your care when they have access to up-to-date health information such as medications, allergies, lab tests etc.

Q *When will my health information be shared on a Health Information Exchange between LUHS and other health-care providers?*

A Your health information will be shared upon request by a health-care provider who is involved in your care but is not affiliated with LUHS. Here are some examples:

- When you receive care from a health-care provider who is not affiliated with LUHS, that provider may want your health information located in the LUHS EHR in order to treat you better.
- When you have lab tests done at LUHS, a health-care provider who is treating you but is not affiliated with LUHS may want to view the results of those lab tests located in LUHS's EHR to provide you with better treatment.

Your health information will be shared by LUHS with other health-care providers not affiliated with LUHS when necessary to provide continuity of care for you. Here are some examples:

- If you are treated in LUMC or Gottlieb's emergency department or if you have a surgical procedure performed at LUHS, LUHS may transmit a summary of your care to another health-care provider who is not affiliated with LUHS but who is involved in your care.
- When you are an inpatient at LUHS and transferred to another facility, or when you are discharged and need to follow up with a health-care provider,

LUHS may transmit necessary health-care information to these other health-care providers.

Q *What needs to happen before my health information in the LUHS EHR is shared on a Health Information Exchange?*

A You must sign the Health Information Consent form. Your signature indicates you agree to have your health information available for access by and disclosure to other health-care providers on the Health Information Exchanges in which LUHS participates.

Q *What health information will be shared electronically?*

A The health information sent depends on each organization's electronic health record system. It may include these and other health records:

- Allergies
- Medications
- Medical, surgical, family and social history
- Immunizations
- Clinic and hospital visit notes
- Test results (including HIV, genetic, drug and alcohol tests)
- Diagnoses (including HIV, genetic tests)
- Procedures
- Behavioral/mental health and developmental disability care records
- HIV status and/or treatment
- Genetic testing information
- Drug and alcohol history and/or treatment

Q *Can I hold back some health information that I do not want to be shared through a Health Information Exchange?*

A No. At this time, LUHS cannot exclude specific health information from being shared through the Health Information Exchange. LUHS does, however, restrict sensitive information that it can filter from transfer. This information includes any health information written by a psychiatrist or psychologist.

Q *From which health-care providers will LUHS get my electronic health information?*

A LUHS can get your health information only from health-care providers that allow LUHS access to such information. The other health-care providers may require LUHS to ask you to sign a consent form.

Q *What if I do not want my information shared electronically through a Health Information Exchange in which LUHS is participating?*

A If you do not want your health information to be shared by LUHS through a Health Information Exchange in which it is participating, you do not have to sign LUHS's Authorization for Release of Health Information through a Health Information Exchange form. If you have already consented, you can revoke your consent at any time. To revoke your consent, you will need to fill out the Health Information Exchange Revocation of Consent Form. In some cases you may be asked to sign multiple forms. You can opt out at the time of check in for your appointment or by contacting the Medical Records department at (708) 216-3862.

Q *What will happen if I do not consent to allow LUHS to share my health information electronically through a Health Information Exchange?*

A If you do not consent, health-care providers outside of LUHS will not be able to retrieve your health information in the LUHS EHR through the Health Information Exchange. In addition, LUHS will not be able to transmit through the Health Information Exchange information about your care provided by LUHS to your other health-care providers, such as your primary care physician if he/she is located outside of LUHS.

Q *If I am a legally authorized representative for a patient, am I able to sign LUHS's Health Information Exchange Consent Form or the Health Information Exchange Revocation of Consent Form for the electronic exchange of the patient's health information?*

A Yes. You may be requested to provide proof of such authorization.

Q *What if I have more questions?*

A Please talk with your health-care provider. They want you to have the information you need to make an educated choice about the way your health information is shared with other health-care providers. You can also contact the Loyola University Medical Center Records Department at (708) 216-3862.

