

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Capital Partners in Care (CPC) Health Information Exchange (HIE)?

The Capital Partners in Care Health Information Exchange (CPC-HIE) is a collaborative effort to improve care coordination as well as the quality and efficiency of the health care system. The CPC-HIE serves patients in the Washington, DC metropolitan area by managing the exchange of electronic health records among participating health care institutions. The District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA) manages the governance and operations of the CPC-HIE.

How does it work?

The CPC-HIE stores patient health information that is exchanged through a network of participating hospitals and community health centers. Whenever you visit a health center or hospital, the medical information collected by your health care provider is entered into a computer. These electronic health records are then copied to a secure electronic data vault that can be accessed by providers at health centers and hospitals participating in the CPC-HIE.

How is this system going to help me get better care?

It makes your information readily available to your health care team - it is likely to save time at medical visits and when a consultation is needed. In the event of an emergency, health care providers often have to make decisions about your health without access to your medical information or have to depend on you to remember this information. Using the CPC-HIE, your providers will be able to easily access lab tests, X-rays, medication lists, and past history to get a better understanding of your health care needs.

What medical information is available in the system?

The CPC-HIE will include basic information about you, as well as any medical information, lab results, procedure information and diagnoses made at any participating organizations. Sensitive information, such as substance abuse data, will not be shared in the system.

How did they get my medical information? Will it be secure?

The system receives information that is already stored by each of your participating health care providers. The system is designed to be secure and compliant with federal and state regulations governing health data. Only authorized users are given access to the system and the system creates an audit trail of the records they access. Access to the system is password protected. When you checked in, you should have been given a document that explains this information to you. If you haven't received one yet, I will provide it to you.

Will my medical information be available to providers at all hospitals and community health centers in the region or just some of them?

The CPC-HIE is available at a several D.C. community health centers and hospitals. Long-term plans call for expansion throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Currently, the CPC-HIE participants are as follows: Bread for the City, Community of Hope, Family and Medical Counseling Service, La Clínica del Pueblo, Mary's Center, MetroHealth, Providence Hospital, So Others Might Eat, Spanish Catholic Center, Whitman-Walker Health, Unity Health Care, Us Helping Us and United Medical Center. CPC-HIE also exchanges data with Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients

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(CRISP), to send and receive clinical data and notifications about CPC-HIE patients who might check in for ER visits or are admitted to a DC or MD-based hospital that is connected with CRISP. This is so that your doctors are kept informed about your most up-to-date medical history.

Who is allowed to look up my information on the system?

Only providers that are directly involved in your care and, in a very limited fashion, public health authorities. Federal and state laws permit the exchange of information for these purposes.

How recent is the information in the system?

Information will be as recent as the first time a patient is seen at a participating institution once the data exchange begins with the CPC-HIE. The clinician providing care to you will be able to give you the date range for the data available in the CPC-HIE. Your medical records that existed prior to the start-up of the data exchange will not be available in the CPC-HIE.

What do I do if I want to see the information available about me that is in the system?

The clinicians that are providing your care may show you the information in the system that is available about you.

What if I don't want to participate in the CPC-HIE?

You have the right to "opt out" of sharing your records with health centers and hospitals participating in the CPC-HIE; just ask the staff at your provider's office for more information.