



STAFF FACT SHEET

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

We are a member of the Healthcare Information Xchange of New York (HIXNY pronounced HIX-KNEE). HIXNY has introduced a new secure, electronic service for exchanging health information among hospitals and doctors in the Capital Region. The health information exchange will allow us to view and share information like test results and medication history with other medical offices and facilities. This helps our physicians, specialists and other care providers, particularly those in the emergency departments, access more complete medical information for a patient and provide better, more coordinated care.

As part of our registration process beginning November 1, we will be asking our patients to consent to participate in the health information exchange.

How does a patient consent?

A patient consents by signing a ***HIXNY Consent Form*** at the time of registration.

What happens when a patient consents?

Once a patient consents, we have the ability to view that patient's information provided by other medical professionals who are treating the patient and also participate in HIXNY.

Who will have access to the patient's records?

The health information exchange will require logins and passwords for appropriate physicians and clinicians who are treating the patient to view medical information. This service just makes it more efficient to get the information that is already being shared via telephone, fax, and mail.

What if a patient is not ready to make a decision about consenting to HIXNY?

The patient can take home the consent form and information sheet, and also visit the HIXNY Web site for more information. However, if a patient does not consent, their information will not be available online to the doctors and clinicians who provide their treatment, which increases the risk of relying on inaccurate or incomplete information.

Why can't teenagers participate in HIXNY?

New York State law allows teenagers to seek care for some conditions without parental knowledge or consent. Having their information accessible through HIXNY could compromise the confidentiality protection guaranteed to teenagers by those laws. Therefore, ages 12-18 are currently not eligible to consent to HIXNY.

What if a patient has additional questions?

If the patient has additional questions or concerns about the health information exchange, you can refer them to the Q&A sheet that is handed out with the consent form. If a patient still has questions, direct the patient to our facility representative. Patients can also call HIXNY at (518) 357-3689 or visit www.hixny.org.