

# Fact Sheet about Health Information Technology

## What is Health Information Exchange?

Health information exchange (HIE) “makes it possible for health care providers to better manage patient care through secure use and sharing of health information.” HIE “includes the use of electronic health records (EHRs) instead of paper medical records to maintain personal health information.” [healthit.gov](http://healthit.gov)

## Which Health Information Organizations (HIOs) operate in Kansas?

Kansas has two certified the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN) and the Lewis and Clark Health Information Exchange (LACIE) to operate in Kansas. Both provide the technology for health care providers to share health information.

## Why should health information be shared?

Currently, a patient’s health information may exist in many different locations. If you have a treatment done at a specialist’s office, for example, your health care provider may not have access to that information. Health care providers can make better decisions about your care when they know your full health history, including lab tests, medication history and allergies – information that could be lifesaving in an emergency. The inability to access your health records may also result in a repeated medical test, which costs time and money.

## Is shared health information kept safe and private?

Yes. KHIN and LACIE obey all federal and state health privacy laws and follow strict rules to protect the safety and privacy of personal health information (PHI). Your PHI will be shared only with those health care providers involved in your care.

## Can a patient opt out of the information exchange?

Kansans have the right to “Opt Out” of sharing their health information. However, placing this restriction on health information means that a patient’s health records may not be available for treatment during an emergency.

If you choose to “**Opt Out**” of the information exchange, you will need to obtain the appropriate form found under the “For Consumers” menu found at [KanHIT.org](http://KanHIT.org).

If you change your mind and decide to share your records, you may complete the “Opt In” form on the [KanHIT.org](http://KanHIT.org) website.

For more information about your privacy rights, please refer to your health care provider’s **Notice of Privacy Practices**. Or visit the FAQs page at [KanHIT.org](http://KanHIT.org).

