



North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA)

About the NC HIEA

Health Information Exchange (HIE) systems have been in development nationwide since a federal law was passed in 2009 to promote the use of electronic movement and use of health information among health care providers. HIEs exist to improve health care quality, enhance patient safety, improve health outcomes, and reduce overall health care costs by enabling health information to be available securely whenever doctors, nurses, and specialists need it.

In 2015 the North Carolina General Assembly established the state-managed Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) to oversee and administer the NC Health Information Exchange Network, now called NC HealthConnex (NCGS 90-414.7). The NC HIEA is housed within the NC Department of Information Technology's (DIT) Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC).

NC HealthConnex is a secure, standardized electronic system in which providers can share important patient health information. The use of this system promotes the access, exchange and analysis of health information.

While NC HealthConnex participation is voluntary, the law identifies certain entities and providers who must connect and submit patient data to receive payment for services rendered under state-funded programs, such as Medicaid and the State Health Plan (NCGS 90-414.4.) For those who must connect to receive state-funded payments, a new law gives them until Jan. 1, 2023 (SL 2021-26).

Why is the HIE - NC HealthConnex - Important?



North Carolina's state-designated HIE, NC HealthConnex, connects providers to a secure information network that will help doctors, hospitals and other health care providers deliver the best possible care for patients.

This electronic conversation enables providers to see their patients' most up-to-date health information including medications, lab results, allergies, image reports, conditions, diagnoses, and vaccinations. For example, when a patient is seen by an ER physician while on vacation, that physician may only be able to rely on the patient's statement of medications, allergies, etc. With an HIE connection, the ER physician is able to view that patient's medical record in the system and avoid unnecessary tests or medications.

Enhanced analytics will offer providers and policymakers insight into health care best practices and outcomes as well as assist the state in achieving better budget stability and predictability for the future of Medicaid and the State Health Plan.

As payers increasingly move to alternative payment arrangements that focus on value, NC HealthConnex gives health care providers the tools necessary to improve care coordination and ensure the best care at the best price.

NC HealthConnex Suite of Services

Exchange Services:

- Access a patient's longitudinal health record
- Communicate PHI securely via Direct messaging
- Query neighboring state HIEs, and the VA via eHealth Exchange network
- Check prescription history for controlled substances per the STOP Act

Notification Services:

- Notifies providers as patients receive care in other care settings
- Promotes timely follow-up on medications prescribed or other discharge instructions from ED or inpatient stay
- Supports continuity in care to reduce avoidable readmissions and achieve financial goals under value-based care contracts

Population Health/ Analytics Services:

- Classify and Measure Patient Population**
- via Registries & Integrations
 - Diabetes
 - Immunization
 - Controlled Substances
 - Future Possibility: Stroke, Asthma
 - via Measurement
 - Heart Health Now/Cardiovascular
 - Future Possibility: eCQM