

Patient Fact Sheet

What is Midwest Health Connection?

Midwest Health Connection (MHC) is a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care for all. By using health information technology, MHC gives providers and hospitals the ability to access patient data quickly and securely, protecting patient information through a private internet connection.

Why should I allow my providers to access my health information?

Your health records exist in many places. MHC connects your providers, hospitals and labs to each other. With a more complete picture of your health, your health care team can take better care of you. In the doctor's office, hospital or emergency room. You won't have to collect records from different providers or remember lab and medication history, it will be available to your care team 24/7.

What information will be shared?

You can allow each provider, from different health system, to access your health record using MHC's health information services. Your records will have your past care such as:

- Doctors' visits
- Immunizations
- Illnesses
- Surgeries
- Hospitalizations
- Medicines
- Allergies
- Test results
- Treatments
- ER visits

Your health records come from all your health care providers and may include sensitive information, including mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, genetic testing, and abortion and family planning information



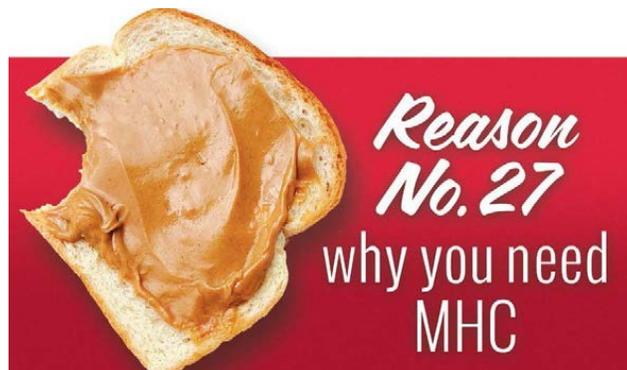
How do I tell my provider I want to share my health information?

Your provider's office will provide you with a consent form at registration. If they do not, be sure to ask about MHC and consenting to allow them to access your records. Your records will not be accessed using MHC's services unless you sign the consent form granting access to that provider. You do not have to allow access to your health information. You can decide at any time if you want to allow your records to be accessed or not accessed by one or multiple health facilities. However, if you decide not to consent to allow your records to be accessed your providers will not be able to access them, even in an emergency.

Are my records safe and secure?

Only your providers and health care team, including primary care, specialty providers, organizations and professionals involved in your treatment, coordination of care, improvement and activities related to the management or payments of your health care can see your records. Information is protected under federal and state privacy laws. It is a serious state and federal crime for someone to wrongly share your health records.

It's crazy your babysitter knows your child has peanut allergies, but your hospital's Emergency Department might not have access to this information. It could be lifesaving! The MHC network offers you powerful peace of mind, so doctors, hospitals, and labs work as one for you and your family.



Your 15-year-old babysitter knows your children have peanut allergies but the providers in the Emergency Room at your local hospital do not.

Sounds nuts, doesn't it?

Is there a cost for me to allow my records to be accessed?

There is no cost for you to access or allow access to your health record.

What if I change my mind about sharing my records?

You can change your mind at any time by letting your provider's office or download the Opt-Out form from MHC's web site. Records shared prior to changing your mind will remain with your provider, as allowed by law.

Questions? Call MHC at (573) 777-4550.
www.MHC-HIE.org/patients

