

Connecting for Better Health



Improving patient care—securely

No matter where patients go for medical care, or how many physicians and specialists they need to see, their medical records should go with them. Right now, health data is siloed in a patchwork of networks operated by regional nonprofit organizations or health systems. When patients and providers can't access critical health information easily, it can lead to inefficiencies like redundant procedures, overmedication, patient injury, or death.



The good news is that we can break down barriers to share essential health information—and do so securely—if we create a statewide health information exchange (HIE) network. An

HIE is a digital network that can safely house your entire medical history so that any medical professional can immediately access your healthcare records.

Privacy and protection of patient records is a top priority in establishing a single statewide HIE network. An HIE in California will only allow medical professionals to access your personal health records in compliance with Health Information Portability and Affordability Act (HIPAA) privacy and security regulations—stringent federal technical, administrative, and physical safeguards that protect and maintain the privacy and security of protected health information.

Independent oversight

A statewide HIE network would be run by a nonprofit organization—not a single healthcare organization or government entity—so patients can be assured that their data will not be sold to third parties or potentially accessed and misused by the government for non-healthcare purposes like immigration enforcement, unless required under law.

Did You Know?

*HIPAA's long-standing privacy laws require that covered entities (health plans, clearinghouses, and all who provide care in the healthcare ecosystem) share data only for treatment, payment and operations purposes. The law also requires that these organizations use the minimum amount of patient data necessary to deliver care. **An HIE would actually have in place additional safeguards beyond what existing law provides to further secure patient privacy, such as terms of participation, credentialing controls, and audit trails.***

