



# NC HIEA

## TALKING POINTS

North Carolina's statewide health information exchange-NC HealthConnex, operated by the NC Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA), provides a secure, statewide network for doctors and other health care providers in North Carolina to share important patient health information and improve patient care. NC HealthConnex will be available to all providers, and is required of any provider receiving state-funded health care.

### THE NEED

Health care providers across the state recognize the information about their patients is not easily available to other providers who may be treating them in disparate locations. Even patient information contained within our local Electronic Health Records (EHR) remains specific to our network and leaves gaps in patient care.

### PURPOSE & INTENT

NC HealthConnex is intended to improve health care quality and outcomes, enhance patient safety, and reduce overall health costs by enabling health information (via EHRs) to be available securely whenever doctors, nurses and specialists need it. This includes important health information like prescriptions, allergies, vaccinations, lab results, X-rays, test results, conditions and diagnoses.

### EFFICIENCY

North Carolina is taking a comprehensive approach to reforming Medicaid and making it more efficient and effective for the 1.8 million individuals receiving Medicaid services. NC HealthConnex will be a critical foundational element of reaching that goal.

### SECURITY & PRIVACY

The NC HIEA takes patient health data privacy and security very seriously. In accordance with HIPAA regulations and state and federal law, the NC HIEA has and will enter into appropriate data sharing agreements and Business Associate Agreements with all organizations that will receive protected health information (PHI) from the NC HealthConnex network.

### THE VALUE OF CONNECTING TO THE NC HIE

Having access to NC HealthConnex helps us work more closely with other providers, make better care decisions, and reduce the chance of medical errors. NC HealthConnex also helps prevent the spread of disease through faster reporting of health threats to public health departments.

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

We are currently working to connect our electronic medical record to NC HealthConnex, and anticipate to go live in March 2023. In addition to the connection for the exchange of health records, NC HealthConnex offers additional services for our organization including Direct Secure Messaging, eHealth Exchange, registries, and notifications.

### PATIENT EDUCATION

Patients do not have to participate in this system and can choose to opt out of having their PHI shared through the NC HealthConnex by sending the Patient Opt Out form found on the NC HIEA website, [nhealthconnex.gov](http://nhealthconnex.gov), to the NC HIEA business office. We will also be able to provide the forms here in our office. If you questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Brooks.