

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

PATIENT OPT-OUT/OPT-IN INFORMATION



SAN ANTONIO
REGIONAL HOSPITAL

This form is to be used by patients who do not wish to participate in SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL's Health Information Exchange's (HIE's), or if a patient wishes to rescind a previous decision to opt out. Please read the following information carefully before submitting your form.

What is a Health Information Exchange or HIE?

A Health Information Exchange, or HIE, is a way of sharing your health information among participating doctors' offices, hospitals, labs, radiology centers, and other health care providers through secure, electronic means. The purpose is so that each of your participating caregivers can have the benefit of the most recent information available from your other participating caregivers when taking care of you.

What is in my SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE patient record?

Your SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE patient record will include your medications, allergies, current and past test results, and summaries of your past and current health problems. It will not include psychotherapy and sensitive notes or other information that requires your specific authorization to release under federal law. Having timely access to a more complete and accurate health record will help your caregivers work together more easily, make better decisions about your care, eliminate redundant forms, and reduce mistakes, especially in an emergency.

Who can see my records?

Only health care providers who are treating you and their associated staff who are specifically given rights to the HIE network can access your records through SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE. For example, if one of your providers participates in SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE, he or she can access your health information maintained by your other providers who also participate in SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE.

How is my health information protected?

SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL is committed to keeping your records private and secure. Clear and strict federal and state guidelines govern how your health information can be exchanged, viewed, or used. Information that identifies you will not be sold or made available for other purposes. Only those that care for you will be able to view your health information, and only when needed to provide or coordinate your care, make referrals, submit mandatory public health reports (such as your vaccination history), or to provide health care benefits to you.

What can SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL's HIE do for me?

If you see multiple doctors who participate in HIE, they may see a more complete picture of your health, and make more informed treatment decisions. The goal is for you to receive coordinated care more efficiently. Your health care information is available to participating health care providers where and when they need it without delay.

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Are there risks to opting out?

Yes. The goal of SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE is to provide your caregivers outside SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL secure access to the best available information about your health. By opting out of health information exchange, your caregivers outside SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL may have less information about you when making a diagnosis for you, or when making decisions with you about your care.

I do not want to participate. How can I opt out?

Your health information will be visible to your caregivers through SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE unless you opt-out using this form or by contacting SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL Privacy Office at 909-579-6716. Please allow up to five (5) business days to process your opt out request.

Your choice to opt-out of the Health Information Exchange will not affect your ability to access medical care. Opting out will not prevent your caregivers from sharing your health information with authorized entities when necessary for public health or research purposes that are permitted or required by SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL as well as any other requests permitted by federal and state law. In cases of medical emergency, your doctor may request to view your health record to diagnose or treat your emergency medical condition and SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HOSPITAL HIE will make your records available under such circumstances. Information that has already been released pursuant to a previous authorization or other HIE will not be affected by the opt-out request.

