



## YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER HAS MADE THE KHIE CONNECTION

The use of the Kentucky Health Information Exchange has the potential to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare in the Commonwealth. Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) can help to ensure that everyone involved in a patient's care—whether in a primary care setting, a specialist's office, a behavioral health center, or an emergency department—has access to the same information.

## THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

KHIE helps facilitate coordinated patient care, reduce duplicative treatments, and avoid costly mistakes. This practice is growing among healthcare providers in Kentucky because the need for health information is clear and the benefits are significant.


For example, emergency room physicians who would use KHIE to access patient information—such as labs, radiology reports, and other transcribed reports—might adjust treatment plans to avoid an adverse medication reaction or duplicative testing.

## Your Specially Protected Health Information

Sharing patient records in KHIE is key to providing complete patient care and serves as a channel for communication with other healthcare professionals. Improved communication between behavioral health and physical health providers is pivotal to improving patient outcomes. Federal regulations afford extra privacy protection for your substance use disorder treatment records. These records are given the highest degree of confidentiality protections granted to medical records. You must give written consent to your healthcare provider for this information to be shared with other healthcare providers. Consent is typically obtained annually and you can withdraw your permission to share at any time.

When shared with another healthcare provider treating you, these records are accompanied by a notice of redisclosure so the recipient knows that further disclosure of the information is not permitted without obtaining patient consent. KHIE ensures the specific disclosure language is included on any record with SUD information that is shared through the health information exchange.

Your choice on whether to share your substance use disorder information will not affect your ability to receive medical treatment, payment for medical treatment, or health insurance enrollment or eligibility for benefits.



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## Many Kentucky hospitals and healthcare providers have made the KHIE Connection.

Providers and healthcare organizations across the Commonwealth are connecting to KHIE to make available key clinical data such as lab reports, transcribed radiology reports, and clinical summaries. KHIE is a query-based system that your medical providers can use to obtain your most current medical history from other providers directly involved in your treatment. Sharing your health history through KHIE is faster and more secure than by fax, mail, or telephone.

To participate in KHIE, healthcare providers must sign legal documents with KHIE to become authorized users of KHIE. Only those participating healthcare providers who have a treatment relationship with you can see your health information through KHIE. KHIE is compliant with all HIPAA requirements for security and privacy; additionally, KHIE complies with the standards and rules from The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH) that protect your health information when it is in an electronic format.

## BENEFITS

Through the KHIE connection, your healthcare provider has access to your clinical diagnosis, labs, radiology reports and other medical history from other participating providers. This provides a tool to improve the quality and safety of your care:

- ✓ May empower caregivers with clinical decision support tools that would result in more effective care and treatment
- ✓ May help improve your medication safety and medication compliance
- ✓ May reduce/eliminate potential drug interactions
- ✓ May eliminate unnecessary paperwork for you
- ✓ May eliminate redundant or unnecessary (and costly) testing
- ✓ May reduce health related costs
- ✓ May ensure that your provider has more time to devote to your patient education

Click here <https://khie.ky.gov/Participants/Pages/All-KHIE-Participants.aspx> to find a list of all healthcare organizations that participate with KHIE.

For additional information, visit us at [khie.ky.gov](https://khie.ky.gov)

