

Welcome to the North Dakota Health Information Network

What is the NDHIN?

The North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN) connects providers like you to other providers through our secure, online network to share your patients' electronic health records. We will create a roadmap of data for a more thorough understanding of your patients' conditions, allowing for up-to-the-minute decisions and faster diagnoses. With NDHIN you will be able to reduce patient intake time, minimize duplication of tests and paperwork, access the most recent updates to health records, and cut costs while increasing mobility. Our network ensures your patients' data is protected and confidential. The future goals of the North Dakota Health Information Network are to connect to a national network to accommodate patients everywhere, regardless of their home state. Improving Healthcare. Empowering You.

How does it work?

A simplified exchange known as NDHIN Communicate is a method to send information from one provider to another through a secure electronic system allowing providers to exchange unstructured or structured documents with other providers through a secure email service. Essentially, pushing protected health information to another provider securely. The robust exchange of health information, also known as query technology is another tool that a provider can use to push information to another provider, or if necessary, pull information from other providers as they are providing medical services to the patient; information such as medications, allergies, past medical history, diagnostic results (i.e. labs, radiology), immunizations and advance directives. This information can result in better quality health care, improved health outcomes and may save a patient's life.

How do we share this information with our patients?

The NDHIN staff will work with you on ways to notify patients of your participation in the NDHIN. Each patient must be notified of your participation in the NDHIN and informed of their right to Opt Out of Participation. We provide a sign to display and informational brochures to hand out to your patients to assist you, along with other easily accessible online tools.

Sample Scripts for patients:

“Our facility participates in the North Dakota Health Information Network or NDHIN. The NDHIN is a secure network that safely connects your doctors' electronic health record systems. Only authorized individuals will be able to access information from your medical records. The NDHIN offers many benefits to patients, but you have the right to opt out. If you do opt out, emergency room doctors and other medical professionals may not have access to your complete medical information which could save your life in some situations.”

Or:

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How does this benefit our patients?

Participation in the NDHIN allows providers to see all of a patient’s health information everywhere a patient receives care. This safe and secure exchange of information benefits patients by providing their clinicians with a complete summary of care enabling them to use that information for decision-making. The system documents what information is shared and with whom. Patients can be comforted that their information is being used by you to be better informed about the care they are receiving.

What if a patient does not want their information searchable?

By default, a patient’s medical information may be searched for through the NDHIN, although participation is completely voluntary. A patient has the option to opt out of having their information available through the NDHIN. A patient can NOT be denied medical care if they decide not to have their medical records searchable through the NDHIN. However, if they decide not to make their medical information available, emergency room doctors and other medical professional may not have access to their medical information when needed, which could be critical to saving their lives.

Even if a patient chooses not to participate in the NDHIN, a treating health care provider will still be able to select the NDHIN as a way to receive patients’ lab results, radiology reports, and other data sent directly to any treating health care provider that the provider may have previously received by fax, mail, or other electronic communications.

How can a patient Opt Out of participation in the NDHIN or change a prior election?

If a patient requests to Opt Out of participation in the NDHIN or change a prior election they must complete the Opt Out/Revoke Opt Out form that can be found at <http://www.ndhin.org/consumers/opt-out-participation>.

What other facilities are participating in the NDHIN?

There are a number of facilities/organizations participating in the NDHIN state-wide. For a complete listing you can go to <http://www.ndhin.org/providers/participating-providers>.

Feel free to contact the NDHIN staff with any questions that arise by calling (855) 761-0534 or email ndhin@nd.gov.

Additional Resources:

- Provider Education Video – <http://www.ndhin.org/video/provider-education-video>
- Provider Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - <http://www.ndhin.org/providers/faq>
- Consumer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - <http://www.ndhin.org/consumers/faq>
- Provider Training tools - <http://www.ndhin.org/providers/training>
- NDHIN Policies - <http://www.ndhin.org/policies>
- Opt Out/Revoke Opt Out Form – <http://www.ndhin.org/files/resource/OptOutRevokeOptOutForm.pdf>
- Additional Participation Display Signs – <http://www.ndhin.org/files/resource/Training/ParticipantDisplaySigns.pdf>