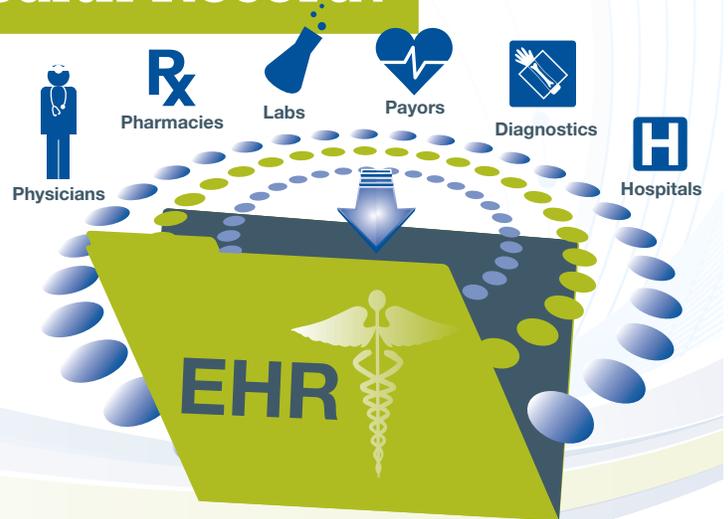


What is an Electronic Health Record?

An electronic health record, or EHR, is an electronic version of the paper charts kept by health care providers and facilities. An EHR may include clinical information such as care summaries, medical histories, lab results, radiology reports, physicians' orders and consult reports, medications, allergies and notes that may help health care providers diagnose and treat you.



How is my EHR shared?

Your EHR may be shared among health care professionals involved in your care through the Louisiana Health Information Exchange, or LaHIE (pronounced, 'La-HIGH.'). LaHIE is a secure electronic system through which enrolled and authorized health care providers can access your EHR in real time. LaHIE is designed to help ensure that your EHR moves with you as you seek medical care from enrolled providers at authorized locations.

What are the benefits of having an EHR?

Imagine, for example, that you are taken to the Emergency Room. You're unconscious and unable to tell the attending physicians about your allergies. If you have an EHR that is accessible through LaHIE, the doctors may have direct access to that information and can treat you accordingly.



Or perhaps you require regular medical attention, but you are temporarily relocated due to a natural disaster such as a hurricane or flood. With an EHR, no matter where you go, your medical history may be available to enrolled health care providers through LaHIE. This will assist your doctors in providing you with the necessary medical treatment – and without having to repeat tests that you've already had done.

Having an EHR available through LaHIE may also include such conveniences as having to provide your health information only once rather than filling out repetitive paperwork at every appointment and having your prescriptions electronically transmitted so they'll be waiting for you at the pharmacy.

In addition, an EHR is designed to provide your health care providers with a more accurate understanding of your medical history so they can give you the best care possible. And because all authorized members of your health care team – from doctors and nurses to lab technicians and pharmacists – may be able to access your health information through LaHIE, your care will be more coordinated.

Who can see my EHR?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, sets rules and limits on who can see your EHR through LaHIE. Your doctor or hospital is required to provide you with a notice that explains how they may use your health information, what your privacy rights are and how you can exercise those rights. You should receive such a notice on your first visit, but you can request one at any time you like. The doctor or hospital cannot use your information in any way that is inconsistent with their notice.

Is my EHR secure?



Unlike paper records, which can be lost, damaged or stolen, EHRs are designed so that only authorized providers who are involved in your care can access your information from authorized locations.

However, no electronic system is completely secure, and there may be some risk of unauthorized access or misuse of information by authorized providers. It is important to remember that LaHIE uses state-of-the-art systems to secure your electronic health information to the greatest degree possible and to prevent access by unauthorized persons.

Where can I find more information about EHRs?

You may find additional information about EHRs at: www.lhcqf.org.



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