

eCW eEHX
**Electronic Health
Information Exchange**



**Improving Health Care
Delivery for Our Patients**

 **Advocate Health Care**

Inspiring medicine. Changing lives.

Welcome to eEHX

This office is taking an exciting step forward in providing you and your family with improved health care. We are now participating in an electronic Health Information Exchange, known as eEHX, in which important information about your care can be electronically and securely shared between this practice and other Advocate physicians involved in your care. This allows us to better coordinate the care that you may receive from a number of participating physicians (primary care physicians and specialists).

How Does eEHX Improve the Care I Receive?

eEHX helps your physician provide you with the best care possible by making all of your basic health information available in one secure location. This basic health information includes your medical problems, medications and allergies. Here are a few of the specific benefits of eEHX for patients.

- Your health and medical history can be accessed quickly and securely by other participating Advocate physicians from whom you receive care.
- Participating Advocate physicians can more effectively collaborate to provide you with more comprehensive care.
- When needed, your records will not need to be mailed, faxed or hand-carried to other physicians within the system. Your records will flow electronically to other physicians providing care to you.

This is particularly beneficial if:

- You are treated by more than one physician.
- You regularly take one or more medications.
- You have food, medical or other allergies.
- In an emergency, all your physicians have access to your vital health information.

Health care research shows that information sharing leads to:

- Reduction of duplicate labs and imaging tests
- Reduction of medical errors
- Improved coordination of care
- Improved quality of care

What if I Have Questions about eEHX?

If you have questions about how your health information is used in eEHX or what information is included, please speak with your physician or another person in your physician's office. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions.

Q: How Does eEHX Work?

A: eEHX allows your physician to securely copy your health information from his or her electronic medical records application into eEHX. This information can then be accessed and imported into another physician's electronic application when that physician is caring for you.

Q: What Kind of Information is Shared?

A: The information in eEHX includes your demographic information such as name and gender, diagnostic assessments, medications, immunizations, lab results, diagnostic imaging results, referrals and procedures. Your patient summary will also be shared and includes advanced directives, allergies, surgical history, hospitalization history, family history and treatment plan. If you have questions about any of this information, please ask your physician.

The following information is defined by the State of Illinois as specially protected health information and will not be shared in eEHX without your written permission: information concerning alcoholism treatment, drug abuse treatment, mental health services, developmental disability services, genetic testing and treatment, HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, child abuse/neglect treatment and treatment of sexual assault or abuse.

Q: What If I Do Not Want My Health Information Shared?

A: If you do not want your information included in this program, please inform the person who checks you in for your appointment or your physician. You will be asked to sign an **eEHX opt-out consent form** stating that you do not want your basic health information included in eEHX.

Q: What If I Decide at a Later Date That I Don't Want My Information Shared?

A: Again, you will be asked to sign a form documenting your wishes to stop having your basic health information shared in eEHX. Please note that information which is already in eEHX will remain in the system but will not be accessible by anyone. No new information about you will be added to eEHX.

If you have questions about how your health information is used in eEHX or what information is included, please speak with your physician or another person in your physician's office.



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