

Now What?

You can allow your doctors and other health care providers to share your health information through SCHIEEx. Or, you can Opt Out.

If you choose to Opt Out, that means you do not want your doctors and other health care providers involved in your care to share your health information through SCHIEEx. Your health information may still be shared through fax or mail as necessary for your treatment.

If you Opt Out and later change your mind, ask your doctor how to Cancel your Opt Out so your health information can



be shared through SCHIEEx by your doctors and other health care providers.

Talk to your doctor about the benefits of participating in SCHIEEx.

Questions?

Allowing your doctors to share your health information through SCHIEEx can improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of your health care.

We want you to make the best choice for you and your health care. Participating in the SCHIEEx is voluntary; the decision is yours.

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider today if you have any questions.

More information can be found in the Consumer section at www.SCHIEEx.org.



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Improving the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care in South Carolina

The South Carolina Health Information Exchange



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What is an Health Information Exchange?

Right now, your doctor, hospital, or other health care provider¹ shares your paper health record through fax and regular mail. More and more, health care providers are switching from paper records to electronic health records (EHRs).

An electronic health record contains the same information as your paper record and is stored by your doctor, much like a paper record.

SCHIEx is the South Carolina Health Information Exchange. SCHIEx is a system that your doctor uses to share your health information with other doctors involved in your care. It allows your health information to be shared electronically and in a fast and convenient way.

SCHIEx makes sure your information is shared with the right doctor at the right time, and this helps your doctors *provide you with the best possible care.*

¹Other health care providers can include dentists, pharmacists, chiropractors, and midwives.

EHR Advantages

- ✓ Saves you time when filling out forms about your medical history—the EHR saves your information.
- ✓ Keeps track of your medications making it easier for your doctor to monitor what and how much you take.
- ✓ Alerts your doctor if you require certain tests or procedures, or follow-up care.
- ✓ EHRs are safer in the event of flood or fire.



Paper medical records are being replaced by electronic health records (EHRs)

SCHIEx Advantages

- ✓ Your health information is available to your doctors when and where they need it, whether during a routine visit or emergency care.
- ✓ Helps avoid repeat tests because your doctor can see what tests were already ordered by other doctors or specialists.
- ✓ Helps prevent unwanted side effects when taking medications prescribed by two different doctors.
- ✓ SCHIEx makes it easier for you and your doctors to coordinate your care.



Safety and Security

Your privacy and the security of your health information are important to us.

There are Federal and State laws in place to protect your privacy, as well as strict national security standards to protect your electronic health information. Your doctor's EHR and SCHIEx have been developed to meet those strict standards.

To protect your privacy, only authorized users, such as your doctors and their staff, have access to your health information.

Also, a doctor or staff member may only access or share your health information 1) to provide you with appropriate medical treatment, 2) to report certain conditions (dog bites, measles, smallpox, etc.) to the Department of Health as required by law, and 3) to help our office provide the best possible care to all of our patients.

For more information visit www.SCHIEx.org.