

Patient Information

Mississippi Health Information Network

Placing **YOU** in Control of your Healthcare

What is the Mississippi Health Information Network?

MS-HIN, an agency of the state of Mississippi, is focused on fostering more comprehensive patient care and improving communication between providers and patients in Mississippi. We strive to make patients the center of care and offer resources to providers that increase care, reduce the need for unnecessary tests and increase communication among providers that care for all Mississippians. MS-HIN fosters the sharing of medical information including visit history, labs, medication history and test results. Our services are similar to the banking industry; your account information is available at each branch, not just the branch where the account was opened. This puts **YOU** in control, allowing you to make decisions that fit your life, schedule and needs.

Why MS-HIN is Important to **YOU**?



Increase communication among the many care providers you see. Like most patients, **YOU** have a Primary Care Physician, at least one specialist, and other types care providers. MS-HIN enables these physicians and health care provides to share/access information about your care securely, providing better comprehensive care and reducing your costs.



Reduce the need to pay for multiple lab tests by giving providers the ability to look up prior test results. Providers have access to your existing results helping them make better decisions faster without duplicating tests and costs. This saves the provider time



Reduce side effects by providing physicians access to your medication history. This helps physician's better manage your health even if **YOU** are taking medications prescribed by multiple physicians. You can be alerted of potential interactions and take



Help in Natural Disasters. For example, during Hurricane Katrina it became vital for providers outside a patient's normal care network to have access to their medical information. By allowing providers to share this information, MS-HIN lets **YOU** consult with a new physician without an interruption in care. You no longer have to worry about keeping up with your medical records, they follow **YOU** where you go.



Be prepared for Emergency Situations by making vital information available quickly. MS-HIN helps **YOU** communicate, even if you cannot. If **YOU** are in a serious accident and not able to speak, the emergency medical providers have access your medical records, to provide timely lifesaving services.



Your data is secure. At MS-HIN, we take security very seriously. Your data is encrypted and only accessible by authorized providers. There are Federal and State laws in place that protect your privacy. Strict national security standards protect your electronic health information. **YOU** can be assured your information is secure and private.

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Patient Frequently Asked Questions

What is the MS-HIN and what does it mean to me?

Most likely your doctor, hospital or health care provider shares your paper health record by copying your record then mailing, faxing, or even hand delivering it to the desired location. These methods of sharing your medical information take time and may place burdens upon you and your providers. However, when your providers use an Electronic Health Record (EHR), they can send and receive (or exchange) your health information in a matter of minutes over a secure Internet connection via the MS-HIN.

MS-HIN is Mississippi's Health Information Exchange and it connects doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers across the State. The MS-HIN is a secure electronic exchange of health information which allows providers quick, reliable access to patient health records. The MS-HIN provides patients' records at the point of care fostering better quality of care, improved health outcomes and operating efficiencies.

What are the BENEFITS of MS-HIN?

MS-HIN shares your electronic health information with the right doctor at the right time so your doctor can make an informed decision and give you the best care possible.

Sharing your health information in the MS-HIN helps you and your health care provider by:

- Making your medical history available in case of an emergency
- Not having to reschedule an appointment or schedule an extra appointment because your health information was not available when and where it was needed
- Not having to repeat blood work or other tests and procedures when you see new doctors or specialists
- Saving the cost associated with unnecessary appointments and repeated tests and procedures
- Informing your doctors about your medications, allergies or other important medical history, even when you forget
- Preventing unwanted side effects when medications prescribed by different health care providers don't work well together
- Saving time you and your providers spend calling about needed information or having it faxed or sent by mail
- Making it easier for you and your health care providers to coordinate your care

How does the MS-HIN work?

Authorized health care providers who participate in the MS-HIN can view your health information electronically from other health care providers involved in your care. Here are two examples of how the MS-HIN may work:

An elderly man has multiple doctor appointments throughout the year with his neurologist, primary care doctor and cardiologist. If these three providers are connected to the MS-HIN and the elderly man has

allowed his medical information to be exchanged via the MS-HIN, each doctor can easily access his full medical history in a matter of minutes, without having to request paper copies of his medical records. Suppose the elderly man forgets to tell his neurologist that his cardiologist recently prescribed him Coumadin, a blood thinner. As a participant in the MS-HIN, his neurologist already knew the man was prescribed Coumadin and knew to avoid medical procedures that might lead to excessive bleeding. Because the elderly man allows his clinical information to be exchanged via the MS-HIN, he also benefits from not having to retell his medical history to his doctors each time he sees them.

A woman is in a car wreck and is alive but unconscious. She is rushed to the closest hospital's emergency department which is connected to the MS-HIN. If this woman is a participant in the MS-HIN, the treating doctor in the emergency department could quickly log-on to the MS-HIN and access critical life-saving information they may need to treat the woman. The MS-HIN enables the doctor to view medications she takes and her medication allergies, recent medical procedures she's had as well as test results, any past major medical problems, etc. This kind of information could play a critical role in woman's treatment options and could potentially save her life.

What kind of health information can my doctors see through the MS-HIN?

Only health information important for providing care is exchanged between authorized providers who have a relationship with you and need this information for treatment purposes. Examples of clinical information that can be accessed through the MS-HIN include: results from your blood work, medications you have taken and are currently taking, past diagnoses and surgeries, any allergies you may have, radiology reports and much more.

How do I know if the process surrounding the exchange of my health information is secure?

At the MS-HIN, privacy and security of your information is of utmost importance. Unlike paper health record storage methods, the MS-HIN is built to only allow authorized providers to view your information on a "need to know" basis. For example, your doctor may have access to all your clinical information while an intake nurse may only have access to certain parts of your clinical information in order to adequately perform his or her job duties. Additionally, the MS-HIN audits and tracks who has access to your health information.

Only providers who have entered into a legal contract with MS-HIN and agree to abide by its strict privacy and security policies and comply with all applicable federal and state laws are allowed access to their patient's information.

There are federal and state laws that doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers must follow to keep your information private and secure. MS-HIN's system complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH). For additional information please contact the MS-HIN Office.

What if I do not want my health information shared through MS-HIN?

Sharing your health information through MS-HIN can improve the quality, safety and efficiency of your health care. However, it is completely voluntary.

How do I "Opt Out"?

MS-HIN health care providers are responsible for letting patients know they participate in MS-HIN. If a patient decides they do not want their health information shared, the patient can complete a MS-HIN opt-out form and request to be opted-out from each care provider. The patient will follow the instructions on the

MS-HIN Non-Participation Request Form and return to the MS-HIN Office. This disables the patient's information from being accessible in the MS-HIN Community Health Record System. By completing the MS-HIN Opt-out form you are telling MS-HIN not to allow your information to be "searchable" within the Community Health Record. However, there are organizations that utilize MS-HIN for required transmission of medical records such as Mississippi Public Health, insurance providers, accountable care organizations and home health agencies that are exempt from the MS-HIN Opt-Out system. This is due to a patient's existing agreements and/or state and federal laws requiring the exchange of clinical data. Additionally, to support better care coordination MS-HIN provides point of care alerting for all Mississippi patients that notifies providers when their beneficiary receives care outside of the organization.

NOTE: If a patient wants his or her health information to be private, he or she must inform each healthcare provider to make the health information "confidential" and also complete the MS-HIN "Opt-Out" form.

Can I change my mind?

Yes. If you change your mind and decide to allow your doctors and other health care providers to share your information through MS-HIN, you can reinstate your participation.

To cancel your Opt Out, please complete the MS-HIN Reinstatement Form and return to the MS-HIN Office.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions, please talk with your doctor or health care provider. They want you to have the information you need to make an educated choice about the way your health information is shared with other health care providers. You can also contact MS-HIN at 601.977.8192 for more information.

Non-Participation Request Form

What is MS-HIN?

The Mississippi Health Information Network (MS-HIN) provides a fast and secure way for doctors and hospitals to share certain types of health information, such as lab results and x-ray reports through a Community Health Record. MS-HIN is not a complete medical record. It is a simple way for authorized health care providers to access patient medical information, allowing them to provide you with the best care possible.

How Does MS-HIN Help You and Your Doctor?

MS-HIN Is Fast and Secure

MS-HIN is a fast and secure way for your doctor to locate your most up-to-date medical information. Only health care providers with a valid reason will be allowed to access your medical information. Information will be available to emergency room (ER) health care providers that could help save your life in a medical emergency. MS-HIN also helps safeguard your medical information in the case of an emergency like a fire or natural disaster.

MS-HIN Protects Privacy

MS-HIN protects your privacy better than paper records by tracking who has looked at your information. A report of who has accessed your medical information is available from MS-HIN.

MS-HIN Improves Your Care

MS-HIN allows your doctor to have immediate access to a variety of medical information. This information can help your doctor make better decisions about your care. Accessing lost records through MS-HIN may also prevent your doctor from having you repeat tests; potentially saving you time and money.

Non-Participation in MS-HIN:

Patients who do not want their medical information to be accessible to authorized health care providers through the MS-HIN Community Health Record (CHR) may choose not to participate. If you choose not to participate, health care providers will not be able to access your health information. This means your health information will be unavailable to emergency personnel, even during life-threatening emergencies.

If you do not want to participate in the MS-HIN CHR, please complete this Non-Participation Form and submit it to MS-HIN with original signatures via mail or email to:

Mississippi Health Information Network

805 South Wheatley
Suite 540
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact MS-HIN at 601-977-8192 or email Info@ms-hin.ms.gov.

Non-Participation Request Form

Please initial that you have read and understand each of the following statements:

I understand that not participating in MS-HIN means my medical information will not be accessible to health care providers, including emergency personnel, through a query of the MS-HIN Community Health Record (CHR).

Initials: _____

I hereby authorize MS-HIN to block access to my medical information in the MS-HIN CHR.

Initials: _____

I understand that I may choose to participate in MS-HIN again at any time by submitting a Reinstatement of Participation Form.

Initials: _____

Please provide all of the following information:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Previous Last Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ (Ex: 01/01/1990) Gender: Female Male

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Email Address: _____ Last Four (4) Digits of Social Security Number: _____

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
(If under 18 years of age, signature of parent or legal guardian)

For your protection, MS-HIN must verify your identity before processing this Non-Participation Request. Your identify may be verified one of two ways: have this form signed by a Notary Public OR by a Health Care Provider (physician, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant) licensed in Mississippi.

Please return this completed form to MS-HIN with original signatures in black or blue ink.

This section must be completed by a Licensed Health Care Provider (MD, DO, NP, PA) or Notary Public:

I witnessed the above named individual sign this document and the individual is personally known to me or provided me with valid picture identification on this, the _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

Printed Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Signature: **X** _____ Date: _____

Must be an original signature in black or blue ink.

Reinstatement of Participation Request

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How Does MS-HIN Help You and Your Doctor?

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MS-HIN is a fast and secure way for your doctor to locate your most up-to-date medical information. Only health care providers with a valid reason will be allowed to access your medical information. Information will be available to emergency room (ER) health care providers that could help save your life in a medical emergency. MS-HIN also helps safeguard your medical information in the case of an emergency like a fire or natural disaster.

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MS-HIN Improves Your Care

MS-HIN allows your doctor to have immediate access to a variety of medical information. This information can help your doctor make better decisions about your care. Accessing lost records through MS-HIN may also prevent your doctor from having you repeat tests; potentially saving you time and money.

Instructions for Completing a Reinstatement of Participation Request:

If you wish to reinstate your participation in the MS-HIN Community Health Record, please complete the following Reinstatement Form and submit it with original signatures via mail or email to:

Mississippi Health Information Network

805 South Wheatley
Suite 540
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact MS-HIN at Info@ms-hin.ms.gov.

Reinstatement of Participation Request

Please initial that you have read and understand each of the following statements:

Initials: _____ I have previously chosen not to participate in the MS-HIN Community Health Record (CHR) and completed/submitted a Non-Participation Request Form.

Initials: _____ I understand that by submitting this Reinstatement Request, my medical information will be accessible to authorized health care providers through the MS-HIN CHR.

Initials: _____ I authorize MS-HIN to cancel my previous request for non-participation.

Please provide all of the following information:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Previous Last Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ (Ex: 01/01/1990) Gender: Female Male

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Email Address: _____ Last Four (4) Digits of Social Security Number: _____

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
(If under 18 years of age, signature of parent or legal guardian)

For your protection, MS-HIN must verify your identity before processing this reinstatement request. Your identify may be verified one of two ways: have this form signed by a Notary Public OR by a Health Care Provider (physician, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant) licensed in Mississippi.

Please return this completed form to MS-HIN with original signatures in black or blue ink.

This section must be completed by a Licensed Health Care Provider (MD, DO, NP, PA) or Notary Public:

I witnessed the above named individual sign this document and the individual is personally known to me or provided me with valid picture identification on this, the _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

Printed Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Signature: **X** _____ Date: _____

Must be an original signature in black or blue ink.