



DC RHIO — Improving Your Health Care

You probably receive medical or behavioral health care at more than one health center, doctor's office, or hospital in the DC metropolitan area. Each health care facility keeps its own health records. These records only contain what the facility knows about you, your lab tests, and the medicines you use. You may have additional health information at another facility that could help your doctors make better decisions about your care. Your health care team at this facility is part of the DC RHIO. Now your doctors can get the information they need, when they need it, to give you the best care. This information could save your life.

How does the DC RHIO help make your care better?

- ★ In emergencies: If you go to the emergency room and can't remember what medicines you are taking, the doctor can get that information immediately from the DC RHIO. This will help the doctor make better decisions about your treatment.
- ★ If you are pregnant: If you have to go to the hospital, the doctors and nurses at the hospital will be able to see a record of your pre-natal care. They will be able to make safer decisions about how to take care of you and your baby.
- ★ Avoid taking lab tests more than one time: You just had lab tests at your doctor's office or health center. If you are admitted to the hospital, you may not have to take those tests again. The hospital can get your test results from the DC RHIO.

Why do health care providers share information?

If you receive health care at more than one health center or hospital, your health records will be kept at many different locations. When you have a treatment or test at another location, information about it may not be in the doctor's health records. Health care providers share information so that they can learn as much as possible about your health history, including prescribed medicines, lab test results, X-ray reports, and diagnoses.

What are your rights?

As a patient, you have the right to decide whether or not your information is shared through the DC RHIO system. You can choose not to share your health information. This is called "Opting Out." If you have concerns, ask your health care provider for more information.

Is your shared health information kept safe and private?

Yes. Federal, state, and DC laws are very specific about privacy and confidentiality. We strictly follow those laws. The DC RHIO will not share your medical or behavioral health information with anyone who is not involved in your care.

What is the DC RHIO?

The mission of the DC RHIO is to improve health care for all residents of the DC metropolitan area. The DC RHIO manages an online computer information system that helps health care providers share your health records quickly and securely. The health care providers who use the DC RHIO system are local doctors, health center clinicians and case workers, hospitals, and privacy officers — many of the same people who are part of your health care team today.

DC RHIO participants

Bread for the City, Family and Medical Counseling Service, Inc., The George Washington University Hospital, Georgetown University Hospital, La Clínica del Pueblo, Mary's Center, So Others Might Eat, Washington Hospital Center, and Whitman-Walker Health.

For questions about the DC RHIO, please contact your health care provider or call (202) 552-2303. Visit the DC RHIO on the Web at www.dc-rhio.org.

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