

Information for Patients Regarding the Hospital's Use of allcharts™

St. Mary's Hospital now uses secure, electronic software which makes it easier for us to share your medical records with other healthcare providers in our community. Not all healthcare providers are using this software yet, but for those that do, use of this software eliminates the need for us to fax, mail or messenger your records to them. The result for you is a more complete picture of your care, making coordination between care providers easier and more convenient.

What is allcharts™?

allcharts™ is a software solution made available in central Illinois through *Central Illinois Health Information Exchange (CIHIE)*, a nonprofit organization established solely for the purpose of helping patients get their healthcare information from one provider to another. This office participates in allcharts™, which means that we can make your healthcare records from this office available to any other participating healthcare provider, with your permission.

What are the benefits of allcharts™?

- Improves coordination and continuity of care
- Allows access to necessary information in the event of an emergency
- Provides greater prescription safety
- Reduces duplicate medical procedures
- Helps healthcare providers give better information to patients

How is my health information currently shared?

Today, your health information may be shared between healthcare providers by telephone, fax, mail, or through limited computer networks. These processes take time and may impose a burden on you or your provider but still not provide a complete record.

How would my health information be shared through allcharts™?

Participating healthcare providers would have access to your health information on a need-to-know basis to aid in your clinical treatment. They may be able to search electronically and locate your records within seconds, or request that your clinical records be sent securely through allcharts™ Direct messaging.

How would my privacy be protected?

allcharts™ uses a combination of safeguards to protect your health information. Technical safeguards include encryption, password protection, and the ability to track every viewer's usage of the system. All participating providers must agree to follow written policies controlling access to information through allcharts™. Federal and state privacy laws also regulate the providers. Participants must also have their own policies and safeguards in place.

How much of my health record will be available through allcharts™?

Health records are potentially available through allcharts™ from the time of your first visit after your healthcare provider elects to participate in the HIE. Old health records are not back-loaded into the software. allcharts™ can only send what participating providers are capable of providing electronically. The most typical information includes:

- Demographics
- Lab Orders and Results
- Medication Lists
- Allergies
- Transcribed Reports
- Medical History

Can I choose not to participate in allcharts™?

If you are concerned about your records being shared with other healthcare providers through allcharts™, you can ask to speak to the privacy/security representative for this organization. He/she will be able to answer your questions and, if appropriate, can prevent all or some of your record from being shared.

Your decision to opt-out will NOT affect your ability to receive health care. However, it WILL affect the information available when you receive care. In addition, your decision to opt-out of allcharts™ applies only to information shared through allcharts™. It does not affect the sharing of other health information between your providers (the way it has always been).

Can I exclude certain records?

In some situations, it may be possible to block specific records from being shared through the exchange. You will need to speak with our organization's privacy/security representative regarding your concerns.

Also, certain information in Illinois is automatically considered sensitive, by law, and can only be released in certain circumstances.

- HIV Testing and Results
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Records
- Genetic Testing Information
- Mental health and developmental disabilities records
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- STD Treatment
- Sexual Assault - Rape Kit Evidence

Where it is allowable to release this information, allcharts™ may be used to make the information available immediately or it may be sent securely, from provider to provider(s), using allcharts™ Direct messaging

Whichever decision I make, can I later change my mind?

You are free to discuss any concerns with our designated Privacy/Security representative at any time.

What if I have more questions?

If you would like more information or would like to discuss your options in more detail, contact Central Illinois Health Information Exchange (CIHIE) at (800) 691-6597 or on the web at www.cihie.org.