



Idaho Health Data Exchange Patient Information

Your health information will be made available to participants of the Idaho Health Data Exchange unless you ask us not to make it available.

What is the Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE)?

IHDE is a secure statewide internet-based health information exchange. Idaho's Legislature appointed a commission to develop a statewide health information exchange with the goal of improving the quality and coordination of health care in Idaho. IHDE gives providers secure access to important patient information at the point of care. Access to this information can contribute to improved coordination and quality of care and enhanced patient safety.

How does sharing health information improve patient care?

Health care providers need your health information to accurately diagnose and treat you. Each provider who treats you may have just a portion of your medical record. When your providers can access each other's records, they will have more complete health information and can provide you with better care. Sharing health information can eliminate unnecessary duplication of tests.

Why would I want my information shared through IHDE?

Using IHDE, a health care provider can access lab test results for you that another provider may have ordered. Making this information available to any provider treating you can result in faster, more accurate diagnosis. Having access to this information may also reduce the number of tests that are ordered which can help save you money.

With the information provided through IHDE, your provider can review your current medications. This can help to ensure you are not given a medicine to which you are allergic or that should not be taken with another medicine you are currently taking.

Through IHDE, a provider can get vital medical information to treat you in case of an emergency when you might not be able to answer questions.

How is health information currently shared?

Currently, your health information is shared between health care providers and insurers by telephone, fax, mail, or through limited computer networks. These processes take time and may impose a burden on you or your health care provider. IHDE allows one participant (for example, a physician) to locate records from another participant (for example, a hospital) in a matter of minutes. This can

be critical in an emergency. It can result in your provider having a more complete and accurate health record.

Who will have access to my information?

Health care providers and insurers in Idaho that participate in IHDE. You can obtain a current list of participants at www.Idahohde.org. Participating providers (such as doctors, hospitals and pharmacies) and health insurers (for their own insureds or for insureds in group health plans they administer) will have access for treatment, coordination of care, and health care operations. IHDE staff and contractors will have access to provide technical and administrative support.

Insurers are prohibited from using information available through the IHDE for underwriting purposes.

What health information will be shared?

Authorized users of the Idaho Health Data Exchange can access your medical information created after February 2009 including:

- Lab and X-ray results
- Transcribed diagnostic and treatment records
- Medical diagnosis information
- Medication allergies
- Medicines you are currently taking
- Immunization history

IHDE will hold up to seven (7) years of medical information.

With the exception of the medication history, participating providers will generally not share records related to:

- Alcohol or substance abuse treatment programs (or information likely to be used by such programs);
- HIV testing; or
- Mental health.

The medication history available through IHDE may contain drugs that indicate the presence of a substance abuse issue, mental health condition, and other condition that you may consider sensitive. If you do not want this information to be shared through IHDE, you should request to restrict the disclosure of your health information.

While it is an important resource tool in caring for you, IHDE does not take the place of your medical record.

How is my privacy protected?

Information shared through the Idaho Health Data Exchange is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”). HIPAA regulates the use and/or disclosure of your personal health information for purposes of treatment, payment, and operations.

IHDE, participating providers, and health insurers use a combination of safeguards to protect your health information. Technical safeguards include encryption, password protection, and audit logs that track every participant’s use of the system. Administrative safeguards include written policies that require limited access to information through IHDE. All participating providers and health insurers must agree to follow these policies. All participating providers and insurers are also regulated by HIPAA, as well as other federal and state privacy laws. They must have their own policies and other safeguards in place, including policies to train their staff and limit access to those with a need to know the information.

Are there privacy risks?

Yes. While IHDE strives to ensure that the security of all personal health information available through the system is carefully maintained, no system of safeguards is perfect. Those that participate in the IHDE believe the benefits of the system outweigh the risks. But, participation is a personal decision you must make yourself.

Can I choose not to participate in IHDE?

Yes. You have the right to request to restrict disclosure of your health information. You can choose whether or not to make your health information available to providers participating in IHDE, with these exceptions:

- Your name, date of birth and gender will be available through IHDE.
- The indicator for sharing your health information will be set to “NO.”

You do not have to make your health information available through IHDE to get health care. However, if you choose to restrict disclosure of your health information, it may affect what information your provider has available when providing your care. The benefits of the IHDE will not be available to you. Your decision to restrict disclosure through IHDE applies only to the sharing of information through IHDE. It does not affect other methods for sharing health information between your provider or health insurers.

How can I request to restrict disclosure of my health information?

Complete, sign and submit a Request to Restrict Disclosure form. Instructions on how to submit your request are available on the form or can also be found at www.idahohde.org/restrictdisclosure.

You can also request to restrict disclosure of your minor child’s health information using the same form and process.

You still have the right to request a separate restriction of your health information with your individual providers.

Can I hold back certain records I don’t want my health insurer or other providers to see?

No. IHDE cannot exclude specific visits, tests or episodes of care, specific providers, or health insurers. Restricting disclosure generally means that no one will be able to access your health information through IHDE except as described in this brochure. If you don’t want some or all of your information made available through IHDE, you should consider requesting a restriction of disclosure and not participating at all.

If I request to restrict disclosure, can I change my mind later?

Yes. If you restrict disclosure, you can change your mind and revoke the request. Call IHDE or visit the IHDE website to find out how to revoke the request. Your signature on a request to revoke a restriction must be notarized. Be aware that when you revoke a request to restrict, all the information that has been gathered by participating providers and health insurers since you made your request will be available for sharing through IHDE.

Where can I get more information?

For help understanding the IHDE and your rights, please contact IHDE at:

- Phone: (208) 332-7253
- e-Mail: info@idahohde.org
- Website: www.idahohde.org