



## Frequently Asked Questions The Network (the State of Arizona health information exchange)

### 1. What is a Health Information Exchange (HIE)?

An HIE is an organization that oversees and governs the exchange of health information. The Network (the statewide health information exchange) operated by Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) is an example of an HIE.

### 2. Is The Network a part of The State of Arizona government or funded by the State of Arizona?

No. The Network is a program of Arizona Health-e Connection, a private, non-profit organization.

### 3. Why would I want to participate?

The sharing of information allows for better exchange of clinical data between care providers. This allows us to coordinate your care more rapidly, especially in an emergency. Your health care professionals want the best and most complete information when caring for you.

### 4. How do I know if my provider is participating in the Network?

You will receive a copy of the HIE Notice from your provider at your first encounter after they begin participating. At this point you will also have the opportunity to opt-out if you choose to. You can also find the current list of participants by contacting The Network (see contact information on bottom of this page).

### 5. Why are Tucson Medical Center (TMC) and its affiliate locations included in the same HIE Notice?

TMC and its affiliate locations (TMC One, Saguaro Surgical, P.C and Southern Arizona Infectious Disease Specialists) are included in the same HIE Notice because they share the same electronic medical record (EMR). TMC is the service provider for the EMR.

### 6. Can a patient change his or her mind about participating in The Network?

Yes. A patient that initially opts-out of The Network can "opt back in." During the time in which a patient has opted-out of the Network, a patient's information can continue to flow to The Network, but The Network screens it from view. If a patient "opts back in," all of that information would be made available for viewing through The Network. When patients opt out or when they "opt back in", their decision applies to all of the individual's information in the Network, regardless of when the individual opted out or opted back in.

### 7. What information are insurance plans able to view in The Network?

Insurance plans are able to view information about their current members that is relevant to the insurance plan's care coordination and case management activities for its members. Of course, if a person has opted-out of The Network, that person's information is not available for viewing by anyone, including insurance plans.

### 8. Are minors (individuals under the age of 18) allowed to make their own decision to opt-out? Are emancipated minors afforded different rights?

The Arizona HIE statutes do not change existing Arizona law with respect to "health care decision makers". The Network participants must default to the Arizona laws already in place that govern when and in what circumstances minors may make decisions about their own health care, including their participation in an HIE. Once a minor turns 18 they will be asked to sign the HIE Notice at their first encounter with the participating provider after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdate.

For questions or further information:

Email [TheNetwork@azhec.org](mailto:TheNetwork@azhec.org) / Call (602) 688-7200 / Visit [www.azhec.org](http://www.azhec.org)

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