

What is Health Information Exchange (HIE)?

A health information exchange (HIE) allows healthcare providers to access and share patient medical record data securely and electronically. Different health groups use different EHR, or electronic health record technologies. HIE's allow these different EHR's to share information and talk to one another. It allows doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care providers and patients to appropriately access and securely share a patient's vital medical information electronically-improving the speed, quality, safety and cost of patient care.

Appropriate, timely sharing of vital patient information can better inform decision making at the point of care and allow providers to:

- Avoid readmissions
- Avoid medication errors
- Improve diagnoses
- Decrease duplicate testing

For further information go to:

<https://www.healthit.gov/topic/health-it-and-health-information-exchange-basics/what-hie>

What is CommonWell Health Alliance?

CommonWell Health Alliance is an industry wide alliance creating a nationwide infrastructure that will enable better, more cost-effective care for patients.

CommonWell Health Alliance is a means of enabling health data exchange between providers using various EHR (Electronic Health Record) technologies.

Wherever patients go for care, their past health care information-from within that hospital, within that community, within that region, anywhere within the US-should be available to care providers regardless of where it's needed. Health data should be available to individuals and caregivers regardless of where care occurs.

CommonWell Health Alliance includes over 80 member companies, working across more than 20 care settings. For a full list of providers go to:

<https://www.commonwellalliance.org/who-is-connected>

What is an Accountable Care Organization?

An accountable care organization (ACO) is a network of doctors and hospitals and other health care providers that share financial and medical responsibility for providing high quality, coordinated care to patients. They agree to coordinate care for patients and deliver the right care at the right time, while avoiding unnecessary utilization of services and medical errors.

ACO's share information via health information exchanges (HIE) to assist them in meeting their goals.