

## **Health Information Exchanges at WellSpan Health**

As a trusted patient of WellSpan Health, your electronic health information is vital to caring for you.

We share your health information with physicians, nurses, and other support staff throughout WellSpan Health to provide services to you. We may also share this information through various Health Information Exchanges (HIEs). The HIEs that we participate with are on a regional and national basis. These exchanges allow us to securely send and receive health information electronically as permitted by state and federal regulations to support treatment, payment, and healthcare operations (TPO). Exchange of health information can provide better coordination of care, faster access, and assist in making more informed decisions regarding a patient's care. Should a medical emergency occur when traveling, an HIE can bridge the information gap that might exist unexpectedly.

WellSpan Health currently participates in the following Health Information Exchanges:

- Care EveryWhere – A tool within our electronic health record that is used to share records between other healthcare organizations that use the same electronic health record system.
- Central PA Connect – A regional HIE that primarily focuses on connecting and sharing health information with other healthcare providers within the counties of Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Berks and Dauphin. Please visit their website for additional information.  
[PA Connect Healthcare \(centralpaconnect.org\)](http://centralpaconnect.org)
- eHealth Exchange – A national HIE, eHealth Exchange is a network that not only connects with other HIE networks, but also connects federal agencies and non-federal healthcare organizations so medical data can be exchanged nationwide to improve patient care and public health. This is the only HIE that the Veterans Administration uses to electronically exchange health information with other healthcare organizations. See their website for additional information.  
[eHealth Exchange](#)
- Carequality – A national HIE that is used to share health information between other healthcare organizations that do not have the same electronic health record system as WSH and who might not participate in other available HIEs. See their website for additional information.  
[Carequality - Interoperability framework](#)

Patient health information is automatically made available to authorized participants of HIEs unless a patient chooses to opt out of participation. Opting out will not recall a patient's health information that has already been shared. Opting out only affects sharing of information through the HIE. It does not prevent other methods of access to or disclosure of health information about a patient for treatment, payment, and operations (TPO) purposes.

Patients who have opted-out may choose to opt back into HIE participation.

Whether opting out or choosing to cancel the choice to opt out, please note that this will only impact health information generated and shared by WellSpan Health. For any providers that are not part of the WellSpan Health system, please contact them directly to identify your options.

To opt out or to opt back into HIE participation, contact the WSH Privacy/Health Information Protection Office at 1-800-320-6023 or at [privacy@wellspan.org](mailto:privacy@wellspan.org) for additional information.