

## UNDERSTANDING CHANGES TO

# VA Health Information Sharing

VA is changing the rules for seamless, secure electronic health information sharing via the Veterans Health Information Exchange (VHIE). Here's what you need to know.

### What is VHIE?

VHIE gives your health care providers a more complete view of your health record to help them make more informed treatment decisions. Through VHIE, community providers who are a part of your care team can safely and securely receive your VA health information electronically.

**VA only shares your health information with community providers via VHIE when they are treating you.**

### What is changing?

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 removes certain restrictions on electronic health information sharing, which enables VA to seamlessly and securely share your health information with community providers who are a part of your care team. This change will take effect April 17, 2020. Previously, you had to complete a form to opt in or elect to share your personal health information via VHIE.

**You do not need to take any action for VA to start coordinating your care more seamlessly so that you have a better, safer experience.** If you do not want your care team to receive your information via VHIE, you may opt out of electronic sharing. If you opt out, your community providers may not receive your medical records before you receive treatment. This could put you at risk.

[See the next page for information on how to opt out.](#)

### BENEFITS OF INFORMATION SHARING VIA VHIE

The more information your health care providers have about your medical history, the better. In fact, the instant exchange of information made possible by VHIE can dramatically improve patient safety, especially during emergency situations. Sharing your health information via VHIE can also help you avoid carrying paper copies of your health record back and forth between providers.



For more information visit

[VA.gov/VHIE](https://www.va.gov/VHIE)

*VA is committed to protecting your privacy. Only community health care providers and organizations that are a part of VA's approved, trusted network may receive your health information.*

VA



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vhie

VETERANS HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

## Is sharing my health information via VHIE safe?

VA is committed to protecting your privacy. VHIE is a secure system that complies with all federal privacy laws. Only community health care providers and organizations that are a part of VA's approved, trusted network may receive your health information. Additionally, all VA and community care providers work to protect your health information and only share the appropriate information when it is needed.

## What kinds of health information can be shared via VHIE?

Currently VA and participating providers can share a variety of health information including:

- Prescriptions and medications
- Laboratory and radiology results
- Clinical notes
- Allergies
- Immunizations
- Other relevant medical information
- Illnesses
- Procedures

## How do I opt out?

If you would prefer that VA not share your health information electronically, you must complete and submit [VA Form 10-10164](#) to your facility's Release of Information Office (ROI). You may also submit this form online via [My HealthVet](#).

**There is no deadline to opt out and you may do so at any time. If you previously opted out but want to resume secure, seamless sharing, you may also opt back in at any time by completing [VA Form 10-10163](#).**

## What happens if I opt out?

Choosing to opt out will not affect your access to care from community providers. However, it could impact their ability to treat you effectively because they may not be able to receive paper copies of your record before you receive treatment.

## VHIE MEANS BETTER CARE

Secure, seamless sharing via VHIE means your care team will be able to:

- Better understand your health history so they can focus more time on what is important to you.
- Develop a safe, more effective treatment plan.
- Work together to keep you safe and improve your overall health.

