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Aging Office, Inc.

Your Choice: Making health information available

The doctors and nurses who care for you need timely access to your health information. A health information exchange, or HIE, is a service that allows health information to securely move electronically between physicians, hospitals and other healthcare professionals so it can be accessed when it is needed for patient care. That's why we participate in a health information exchange.

How is my health information exchanged? Doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals participating in an HIE, have nearly immediate access to a patient's health information from another HIE-participating healthcare professional. Otherwise, a patient's health information is transmitted between healthcare professionals via telephone or fax, which often causes treatment delays.

Is my health information being exchanged today? Yes, health information from this facility is being exchanged electronically with other healthcare professionals to help coordinate your care.

Is my health information protected? Yes, privacy and security safeguards are in place to meet and exceed federal, state and local requirements including the HIPAA Rule and HITECH Act. Access to this system is regularly audited to confirm appropriate use.

What if I don't want to make my health information available? Your participation is voluntary—you can choose not to allow your health information to be exchanged. This is called *opting out*. By doing so, your health information from this facility will not electronically be made available to other healthcare professionals. If you do not wish to have your health information available through the health information exchange, you must opt-out at each participating healthcare facility you visit. There is not a universal opt-out option.

If you do not want this healthcare professional and/or facility to make your health information available through the exchange, please notify the staff at our registration desk*

*Beginning Spring 2015