

Understanding the facts about Health Information Technology

Key Health Information Technology Terms

Electronic Health Record

An electronic health record contains your health information. Only authorized doctors, nurses, and staff can create, view, and update these records. An electronic health record should meet the technical rules that ensure that it can be shared between hospitals, doctors' offices, clinics and other providers involved in your care.

Personal Health Record

A personal health record contains your electronic health information. It is controlled and managed by you. You decide with whom you would like to share your health information. A personal health record should meet the technical rules that ensure you can securely share it with family members, caregivers, and health care providers involved in your care.

Health Information Exchange

Health information exchange is when hospitals, doctors' offices, labs and others share health information electronically. The exchange of health information should be done securely, maintaining your privacy.

Electronic Prescribing (e-Prescribing)

Electronic prescribing is when a doctor or other health care provider sends a prescription electronically to a pharmacy, saving you time and ensuring your safety. e-Prescribing allows your health care provider to view your medication history, which will reduce the potential for drug to drug interactions. Your health care providers are also informed of what medications are covered by your insurance, saving you money.

Privacy and Security

Federal and state privacy laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, are designed to protect both paper and electronic health records.

Health information technology systems must be designed to meet stringent privacy and security requirements, such as:

- Individuals should know how their personally identifiable health information may be used and who has access to it.
- Systems must securely protect the integrity and confidentiality of an individual's information.
- The governance and administration of electronic health information exchange networks should be transparent and publicly accountable.