



HealthInfoNet

Better. Easier. Safer.

Maine's health information exchange, a secure statewide computer system that helps your caregivers provide you better, easier, safer care.



Learn More About HealthInfoNet

- HealthInfoNet helps your caregivers work together, make better decisions, and reduce mistakes.
- HealthInfoNet takes every precaution to keep your records private and secure.
- Participation in HealthInfoNet is voluntary.

About HealthInfoNet

HealthInfoNet helps caregivers provide you better, easier, safer care.

- **HealthInfoNet is a secure computer system for doctors, hospitals and other caregivers to share information that can improve your care.** HealthInfoNet combines your key medical information from separate caregivers to create a single electronic patient health record. This system helps participating caregivers quickly access the information they need to make more informed decisions about your care, especially in an emergency. Caregivers already share patient health records through fax, email, and mail when needed for your care. HealthInfoNet makes it easier, faster, and more secure.
- **HealthInfoNet allows your caregivers to quickly access the information they need to make more informed decisions about your care, especially in an emergency.** Without using HealthInfoNet, caregivers have only the information *they've* entered into your medical record. But with HealthInfoNet, they see a more complete record, including medications, test results and other information entered by all of a patient's participating caregivers.
- **HealthInfoNet protects public health.** HealthInfoNet helps prevent the spread of disease by quickly reporting certain illnesses and conditions (like Lyme disease or food poisoning), to public health experts at the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). By law, the Maine CDC must keep this information private.



HealthInfoNet is a Maine-based, independent, nonprofit organization.

- **Maine-based:** The Board of Directors includes individuals who are active and prominent in the medical community in Maine and represent a variety of health care organizations and interests.
- **Independent:** HealthInfoNet is independent and is not owned by insurance companies, health care organizations, employers or government.
- **Nonprofit:** HealthInfoNet is a private nonprofit organization. It is funded by many sources including charitable foundations, Maine health care providers, and state and federal government.

HealthInfoNet includes important information about your health.

Included in your HealthInfoNet record:

- Medicines (prescriptions), allergies, lab and test results, image reports, conditions, diagnoses, or health problems from your participating caregivers.
- Your name, birth date, address, sex, phone number, and social security number (if provided to your caregiver) to make sure your health information is entered into the correct record.

Not Included in HealthInfoNet:

- Information created by a substance abuse facility or a licensed mental health provider.
- HIV diagnoses and results of HIV tests.

Note: HealthInfoNet can include information that may indicate a sensitive health condition. For example: If a patient shares mental health or substance abuse information with a primary care provider or in a hospital emergency room, this information may be included and viewed in HealthInfoNet by other providers caring for them.

Benefits of HealthInfoNet

HealthInfoNet can help caregivers work together, make better decisions, and reduce mistakes.

HealthInfoNet provides a number of benefits for Maine people.

- Better coordination between caregivers
- Fewer medical errors
- Improved patient safety
- Better patient health outcomes
- Fewer repeat tests and procedures
- Less paperwork for you and your caregivers
- Makes managing your care easier
- Reduced health care costs
- Faster identification and reporting of public health threats to the Maine CDC

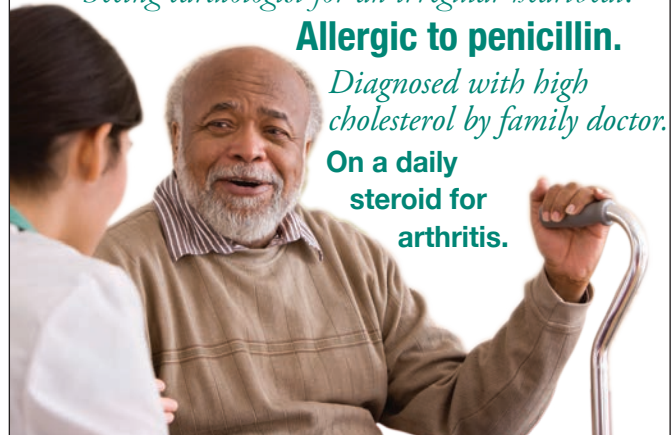
Gall bladder removed 2 years ago.

Seeing cardiologist for an irregular heartbeat.

Allergic to penicillin.

Diagnosed with high cholesterol by family doctor.

On a daily steroid for arthritis.



Using HealthInfoNet helps Robert's caregivers see all his health information in one secure electronic location.

What caregivers are saying about HealthInfoNet.

Here's what Doug Couper, MD, a primary care doctor at Martin's Point Health Care in Portland has to say about his use of HealthInfoNet:



“HealthInfoNet provides one of those tools that I look back and say, how did we get along without this, why did we wait so long.”

“Providing the best care possible for my patients depends on having reliable and complete information. Using computers in my practice is the first step, but I also need to be able to share information with specialists, labs, hospitals and pharmacies. HealthInfoNet allows this.

So when my patient goes to the hospital, clinicians there know what medicines and treatments I've provided. And then when that patient comes back to see me, I can see how they were cared for in the hospital including procedures, test results and medications prescribed. This can speed up decision-making, help reduce mistakes and lead to higher quality care.” *Doug Couper, MD*

Photo provided by emilieinc.photography

Information Privacy and Security

HealthInfoNet takes every precaution to keep your records private and secure.

- HealthInfoNet follows the highest information security standards available.
- Information is always encrypted and sent over a private network, not connected to the Internet, when shared between HealthInfoNet and caregivers participating in the system.
- Only authorized caregivers with correct identification and passwords see your information in the system. Employers, insurance companies, and government can not.
- Information that identifies you won't be sold, and your name won't be added to any mailing list.
- The system keeps track of everyone who views your record, including what parts they look at and when they look at it. You can request a report of this information by filling out the form at www.hinfonyet.org/audit or by calling 866-592-4352.
- Before a caregiver can view your record, they have to confirm they are involved in your care and have a need to see your information. This is recorded in the system.



"I've worked with computer systems in Maine for many years and can say that HealthInfoNet uses layers of protection to keep records private and secure."

- Ralph Johnson, CIO
Franklin Memorial Hospital

No electronic system is completely secure.

- Of course, no electronic system is completely secure and there is some risk of unauthorized access or misuse of information.
- It is also possible that caregivers authorized to access the system could misuse the information.



You can choose not to participate.

- Participation is voluntary. If you feel the risks outweigh the benefits, you may choose not to participate ("opt-out"). Your choice to opt-out will not affect your ability to access medical care.
- If you opt-out, HealthInfoNet removes your health information from the system and keeps only your demographic information, such as your name and birth date, to make sure no health information is added.
- You can fill out an opt-out form at your participating caregiver's office, complete it securely online at www.hinfonyet.org/optout, or call HealthInfoNet to opt-out by phone or mail.
- If you opt-out, your health information will be unavailable to caregivers using the system, even in an emergency.
- If you opt-out, you can later take action to participate again ("opt-in"). Your record will only include information from medical visits that happen after you opt-in. To opt-in, contact us, or go online to www.hinfonyet.org/optin.