Consent Tool Quick Guide

What is the Rhode Island HIE Consent Tool?

The Rhode Island Consent Management Tool is a secure system that allows patients to consent to share their substance use disorder (SUD) treatment information through Rhode Island HIE. This tool ensures compliance with federal regulations under 42 CFR Part 2, which protects the confidentiality of SUD data.

In February 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services updated 42 CFR Part 2, enabling patients to consent to share their SUD data for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. A single patient consent, with one provider, allows sharing of all of the patient's SUD data from all SUD providers they receive treatment from. Rhode Island HIE's Consent Tool and consent form support this expanded data-sharing capability.

Why is this Important?

Sharing SUD treatment information securely and with patient consent allows a patient's care teams to:

- Gain a complete view of a patient's health history.
- Enhance care coordination across providers.
- Reduce unnecessary tests and duplicative efforts.
- Improve patient outcomes through better-informed treatment decisions.

Key Features of the Consent Tool:

- **Seamless Integration:** Easily integrates into existing workflows and EHR systems.
- **Electronic Signatures:** Patients can electronically sign their consent form.
- **Attestation Functionality:** Providers can register patient consent for paper forms.
- **Flexible Permission Choices:** Patients can choose expiration dates, opt for indefinite consent, and revoke their consent at any time.
- **Broad Data Sharing:** Enables sharing of SUD data for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, as authorized by the patient.

What Information can be Shared and Who can Access it?

Eligible Providers: SUD and mental health providers participating in the Rhode Island HIE who have the appropriate agreements in place and an active care relationship with the patient can access and share protected information through the Consent tool. Rhode Island HIE is administered by CRISP Shared Services (CSS) and information shared through Rhode Island HIE will be accessible to authorized users in CSS's network of 12+ state and regional HIE's.

Redisclosure Protections: All SUD data in Rhode Island HIE includes a notice restricting redisclosure to compliance with federal and state laws.

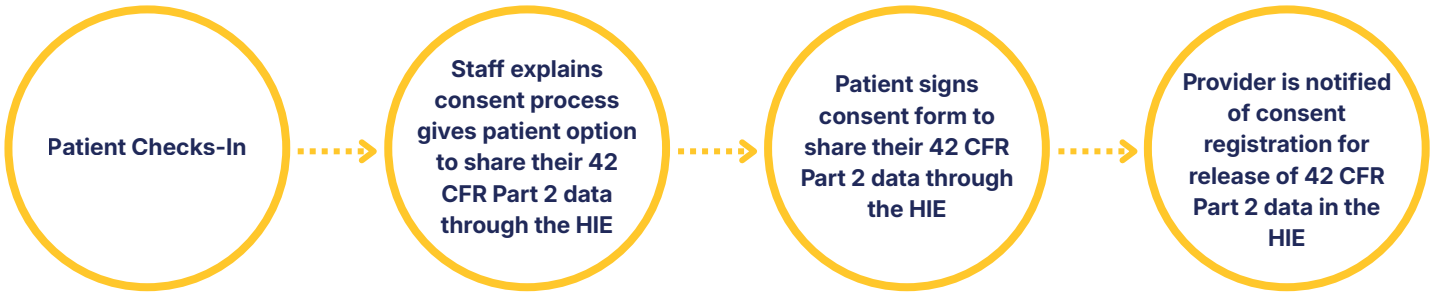
How Does it Work?

- **Access the Tool:** Available through the Rhode Island HIE Portal or via Single Sign-On (SSO) in the InContext application within the EHR.
- **Register, Search, or Deactivate Consent:** Providers can log new consents, view patient consent history, and deactivate (revoke) consent if requested by the patient.
- **Registering Consent:** Patients can electronically sign the consent form in the tool, or submit a paper version. If a paper form is signed, the provider will register the consent electronically and will attest to having a signed form on record.
- **Provider Responsibilities:**
  - View our "Provider - Patient Conversation Script" for key talking points.
  - Educate patients about the consent process.
  - Verify patient identity before logging consent.
  - Confirm patients understand their rights and the potential benefits of sharing their data.
- **Identifying Protected Data:** Once consent is registered, providers involved in the patient's care can easily view 42 CFR Part 2 protected data in the Rhode Island HIE Portal.

Integrate Consent into your Office Workflows:

Integrating the updated consent process into your workflow is crucial for compliance and efficient operations. Every organization should have staff who have access to the Consent tool and are trained on consent procedures and the importance of obtaining patient consent. Listed below are some recommended options for integrating consent into your workflows.

Integrate Consent into Your Intake/Front Desk Consent Workflow:

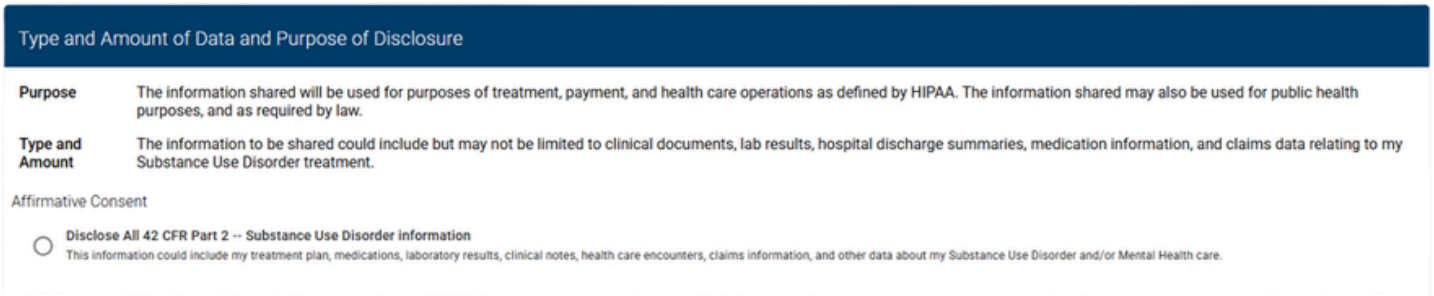


Integrate Consent into Your Patient Visit Workflow:

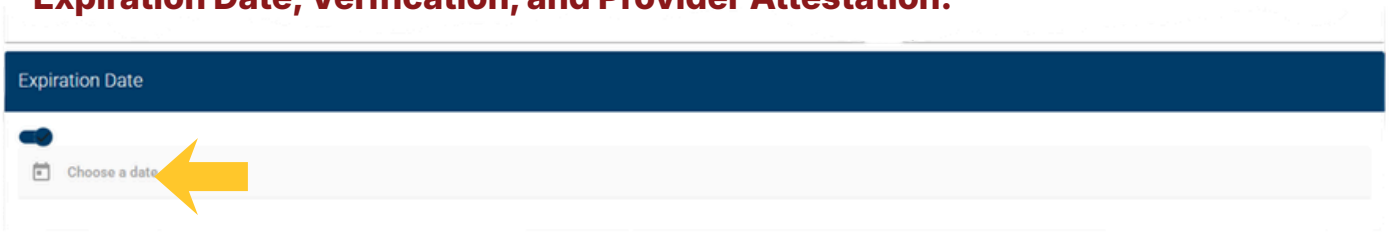


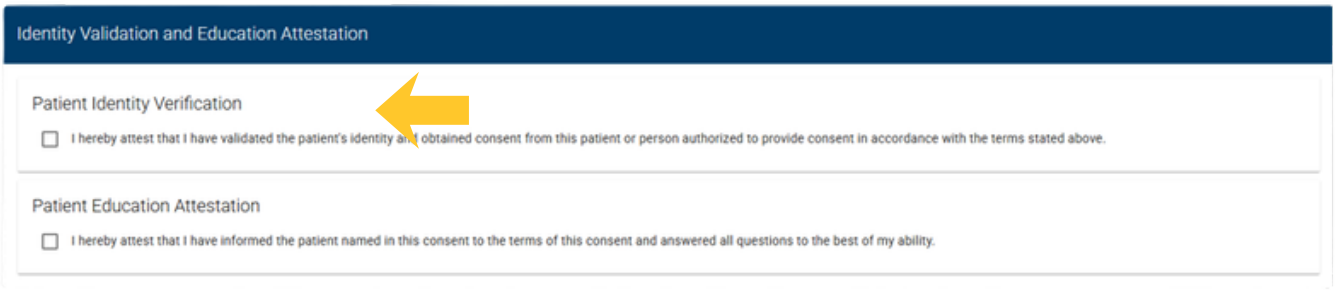
Rhode Island HIE Consent Tool View

Data Sharing Selection:



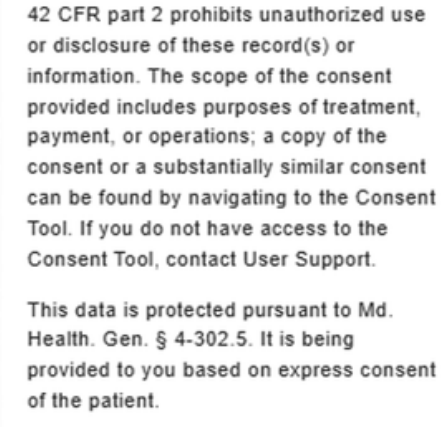
Expiration Date, Verification, and Provider Attestation:





Re-Disclosure Notice:

This appears when providers view patients' SUD information in the InContext application.



Ready to get started?

For more information or assistance, contact the Rhode Island HIE team at info@rihie.org.