FAQ

Patients on Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Data Sharing

This document explains your option to share your SUD treatment information through Rhode Island HIE so that it is accessible to all of your care teams.
Note: This document is for informational purposes only. It is not intended as legal advice. Specific questions regarding compliance with federal and state law should be referred to your legal counsel.

1. What is Rhode Island HIE?

Rhode Island HIE is an affiliate of CRISP Shared Services, a collective of health information exchanges (HIEs). An HIE is a way of instantly sharing health information among doctors' offices, hospitals, labs, radiology centers, and other healthcare organizations. You can find more information about Rhode Island HIE via our website rihie.org/.

2. What SUD treatment data does Rhode Island HIE have about me?

A single consent authorizes the sharing of all your SUD treatment data, even when you receive care from multiple providers. If you register consent with one provider, it extends to all your providers. Once you have consented, information that may be shared includes, but is not limited to:

Treatment plans

- Medications
- Laboratory results
- Clinical notes
- Claims information
- Other relevant treatment information

3. Who will see my SUD data if I submit this consent form?

The consent form allows members of your healthcare team, including your hospital providers, primary care providers, and specialists to view your SUD data. This data is only shared with healthcare providers who list you as a patient in their practice or at the hospital. Providers must have an existing patient relationship to view your SUD data in the HIE. SUD information shared through Rhode Island HIE is visible to care teams across the CRISP Shared Services network covering 12+ states/regions.

4. When does the consent expire?

Patients may choose an expiration date for their consent. You have the option of selecting an expiration date up to 5 years beyond the date the consent is registered. Alternatively, the expiration can be left open-ended and consent will remain active until you revoke it.

5. **Can I revoke my consent? What happens if I revoke my consent?**

When consent is revoked, no future SUD information will be shared through the HIE and previously shared data will no longer be visible to HIE users. You may revoke your consent at any time by asking any provider who participates in Rhode Island HIE to revoke (deactivate) the registered consent.

6. **Who will see my SUD data if I don't submit this consent form?**

If you do not submit the consent form, Rhode Island HIE will not share any of your SUD treatment data. We will shield your SUD data and not share it with anyone. If you choose to submit a consent at a later date, we will share your SUD data with your healthcare providers and care teams at that time.

7. **If I consent to sharing my data, can I get a copy of my signed consent form?**

Yes. If you would like a copy of your signed consent form, you may request one from your healthcare provider, who can print and provide it to you.

8. **What role do parents, guardians, or other authorized patient representatives have in providing or revoking consent on behalf of a patient?**

If a patient cannot make their own healthcare decisions, a parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative may be able to give or remove consent for them, if allowed by law. The person must have legal permission to make healthcare decisions for the patient, and proof of this may be required.

9. **Will Rhode Island HIE share my data with law enforcement or with the court system?**

Rhode Island HIE will NOT share any of your data with law enforcement or with the legal system. Your SUD information will only be shared with your healthcare team if you submit the consent form and will be shared with no one if you do not submit the form.

10. **Can I get a list of everyone who viewed my SUD information in Rhode Island HIE?**

Yes, you can request an accounting of disclosures from Rhode Island HIE. This list of providers will include everyone who has viewed any of your health data in Rhode Island HIE, including your SUD data. You can request this list by completing the webform at https://disclosures.crisphealth.org/form.

11. **Can I be denied treatment if I don't submit this consent form?**

Rhode Island HIE policy is that your provider may not force or require you to submit this form. You must be given a choice of whether to submit the form and what type and amount of information you wish to share with your health care providers.

12. **What is the risk of sharing my SUD treatment information through Rhode Island HIE?**

When you share your SUD treatment information, members of your healthcare team will be aware that you are currently under SUD treatment or that you have been in the past. Some patients prefer to keep this information private. Your SUD treatment information cannot be used to discriminate against you or deny you care. If you believe this has happened, please report it here: https://health.ri.gov/licensing/submit-complaint.

13. **How does Rhode Island HIE protect patient data and ensure privacy and security?**

Rhode Island HIE is committed to protecting your health information and follows all state and federal privacy laws, including those for substance use treatment records.

- Your substance use treatment information can only be shared if you sign a consent form.
- Only healthcare providers involved in your care can access your information.
- Rhode Island HIE tracks who views your information, and you may request this record.
- Your information is protected using secure technology and safeguards against unauthorized access.

14. **Can my SUD provider share information about me directly with other providers if I don't submit the consent form?**

No, your SUD treatment provider generally cannot share your protected SUD information with other providers without your signed consent.

15. **Where can I find more information about SUD data privacy and protections in federal law?**

If you have questions about your SUD treatment information, please talk directly to your SUD provider. In addition, you can find more information about federal law protecting your SUD treatment information at the SAMHSA website. www.samhsa.gov.