

Dear Patient:

As we describe in our Notice of Privacy Practices, Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) may allow health care providers to have access to your medical information for treatment, payment and health care operations. These providers may include your physicians, nursing facilities, home health agencies, or other providers who care for you, both at CHS facilities and at other non-CHS facilities.

In an effort to improve your care, CHS is participating in a health information exchange known as Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect. This is an electronic database of patient information contributed by participating hospitals, labs, x-ray facilities and physicians. Only health care providers with a valid reason will be allowed to see the information in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect. Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect is not a complete record of your health history. It is simply a tool for health care providers to access medical information that they need to provide you with better care.

When your provider accesses Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, he or she will have immediate electronic access to your test results and other medical information posted in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, which could significantly impact your care. For example, a physician treating you can access your health information in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect to verify your medications and allergies. If you are an elderly patient, Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect can help your physician find out where you have been treated and what conditions you have. Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect can also be a life-saving resource if you need medical attention while traveling from home: a participating emergency room physician could immediately access your medical information in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, which would be very valuable in treating you, especially if you were unconscious.

Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect is Good for You and Your Physician:

- Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect is a **secure** way for your physician to get the most up-to-date medical information about you.
- Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect **improves care** by sending results to your physician quickly and securely.
- Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect is confidential and **protects your privacy**.

CHS is excited to participate in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, and we hope you will find it to be a valuable part of your care.

Opt-Out

Your medical information will be contributed to the Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect database, unless you choose not to participate or to “opt-out”. If you choose to opt-out, physicians will not be able to look for your records in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, or have the most recent information about you, which may adversely affect your care.

If you do not want to participate in Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect, you must complete the Opt-Out Form. By completing the form, you are only opting out of the Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect. Your records can still be shared directly between your health care providers outside of Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect:

- Call Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect: 888-724-0459
- Visit the Carolinas HealthCare System CareConnect website: www.CarolinasHealthCareConnect.org