

This information is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#).

## Health Information Exchange and How Mass General Brigham Shares Your Protected Health Information to Coordinate Your Care

The privacy of your healthcare information is of the highest importance to Mass General Brigham. We are very careful about protecting and sharing information about you.

### What is Health Information Exchange?

Health information exchange is a secure, electronic way that we use to communicate with healthcare providers outside of Mass General Brigham who have a role in your care. It is faster, safer, and more efficient than the usual ways of sharing health information, which include phone, fax, mail, and email.

Health information exchanges are used by most medical institutions. They work in both directions --- we can provide your information to your healthcare team outside of Mass General Brigham, and your other healthcare team can provide it to us securely and quickly.

### How does Health Information Exchange work?

Your Mass General Brigham electronic medical record is stored at Mass General Brigham. The health information exchange does not hold or store your information. It is simply the “pipe” or system that sends (carries) the information to and from us and your other healthcare teams.

## Is it safe to send private health information through Health Information Exchange?

After years of using health information exchange, we know that it is safe and secure. It is also the quickest way to exchange your private medical information with your healthcare team outside of Mass General Brigham.

Health information exchange has strong security measures in place. This protects your information. Your information is locked and encrypted (coded) when it is sent using health information exchange.

## What kind of information does Mass General Brigham send using health information exchange?

Here are some examples of information we might send:

- After an appointment, a summary of your care is created. This might include information about your medical conditions, medications, and allergies. The summary helps your other healthcare team members know what kind of care you are getting.
- After you are discharged, the hospital can forward a summary of your hospital stay to the doctor handling your follow-up care. This means your doctor doesn't have to ask for your medical records.
- Your laboratory test results can be shared with your care team, including specialists. This helps coordinate your care and reduces the need for repeat tests.
- Emergency room doctors can quickly and easily find important information about your health and medical issues. This speeds up your care, which is especially important in an emergency situation.
- For patients with certain sensitive conditions, Health information exchange will **not** be used unless you give special permission. Sensitive information includes HIV and substance abuse treatment records.

## What happens if I do not want to share now?

- Nothing changes. Without your permission, we cannot send your information using the health information exchange, even in an emergency.

- Your health information will continue to be sent using other methods such as fax, mail, and email. These methods are slower and less secure than health information exchange.

## Who else is using health information exchange?

- All new Mass General Brigham patients are automatically sharing with the health information exchange.
- Most Mass General Brigham patients are sharing to health information exchange.
- Most healthcare organizations are using health information exchange.

## I still have questions.

If you have questions about this notice or want more information, you may contact your site's Privacy Officer below:

| Site   | Privacy Contact    | Phone        |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Brigham Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brigham &amp; Women's Hospital</li><li>• Brigham &amp; Women's Faulkner Hospital</li></ul> | Debra Torosian     | 617-582-5201 |
| Cooley Dickinson Hospital  | Karen Kuhr         | 413-582-2281 |
| Martha's Vineyard Hospital   | Susan L. Douglas   | 508-957-9487 |
| Massachusetts General Hospital   | Christine Griffin  | 617-726-1098 |
| McLean Hospital  | Patricia B. Murphy | 617-855-4680 |
| Massachusetts Eye and Ear  | Cindy Vredevelde   | 617-573-3408 |
| Mass General Brigham<br>(formerly Partners HealthCare)   | Gage-David Hansen  | 978-354-4254 |
| Mass General Brigham Urgent Care<br>(formerly Partners Urgent Care)  | Susan Blair        | 857-282-2053 |
| Nantucket Cottage Hospital   | Susan L. Douglas   | 508-957-9487 |
| North Shore Medical Center   | Gage-David Hansen  | 978-354-4254 |
| Newton-Wellesley Hospital  | Diana Norcross     | 617-243-6225 |

|  |                      |              |
|--|----------------------|--------------|
| Mass General Brigham Community Physicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincoln Physicians</li> <li>• Middlesex Cardiology</li> <li>• Mystic Healthcare</li> <li>• Pentucket Medical</li> <li>• Westford Internal Medicine</li> </ul> | Susan Blair          | 857-282-2053 |
| Spaulding Rehabilitation Network   | Monica Baggio Tormey | 617-952-6901 |
| Wentworth Douglas Hospital   | Karen O'Brien        | 603-609-6562 |
| Other (sites not listed above)   | Gage-David Hansen    | 978-354-4254 |