



Connecting Connecticut Through Health Information Technology

eHealthConnecticut
and the
Department of Social Services
Health Information Exchange Pilot Program

Understanding
Health Information Technology
and Health Information Exchange

Understanding the eHealthConnecticut Department of Social Services Health Information Exchange Pilot Program

What you will learn...

- ▶ **How** the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) Health Information Exchange Pilot Program works
- ▶ About the **benefits** of health information exchange (HIE)
- ▶ **Questions** to ask your healthcare providers to learn more

Understanding the eHealthConnecticut Department of Social Services Health Information Exchange Pilot Program

Outline

- ✓ Objective of the HIE Pilot Program
- ✓ eHealthConnecticut and DSS
- ✓ What is HIE?
- ✓ The Benefits and Risks of HIE
- ✓ How the HIE works
- ✓ Privacy and Patient Consent
- ✓ Security on the HIE
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ How to Learn More

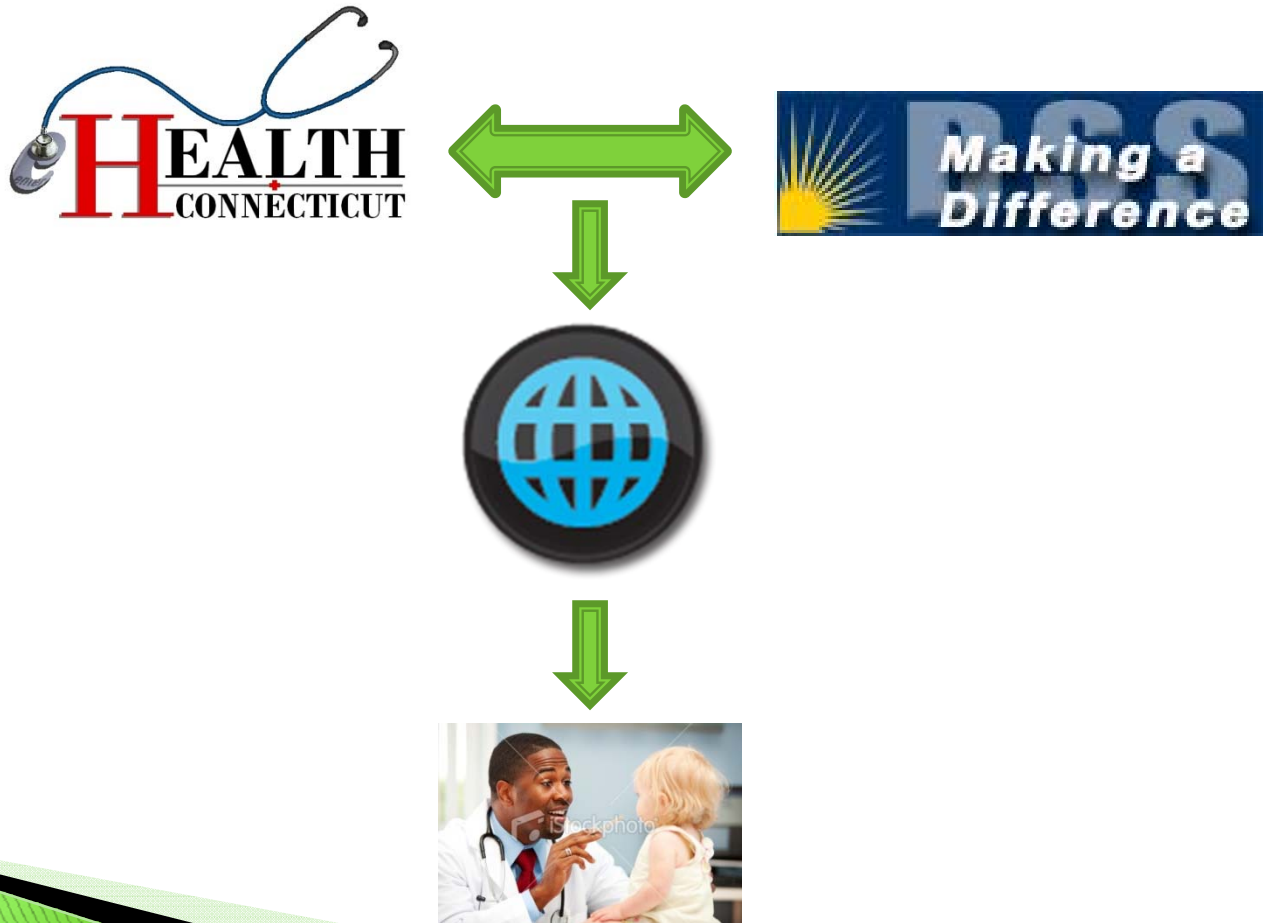
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Objective of the Pilot Program

- ▶ **Focus:** To electronically share important clinical patient information at the point of care.
- ▶ **Pilot phase:** To connect 3 hospitals and 2 community health centers.
- ▶ **Future phases:** To expand the program statewide.

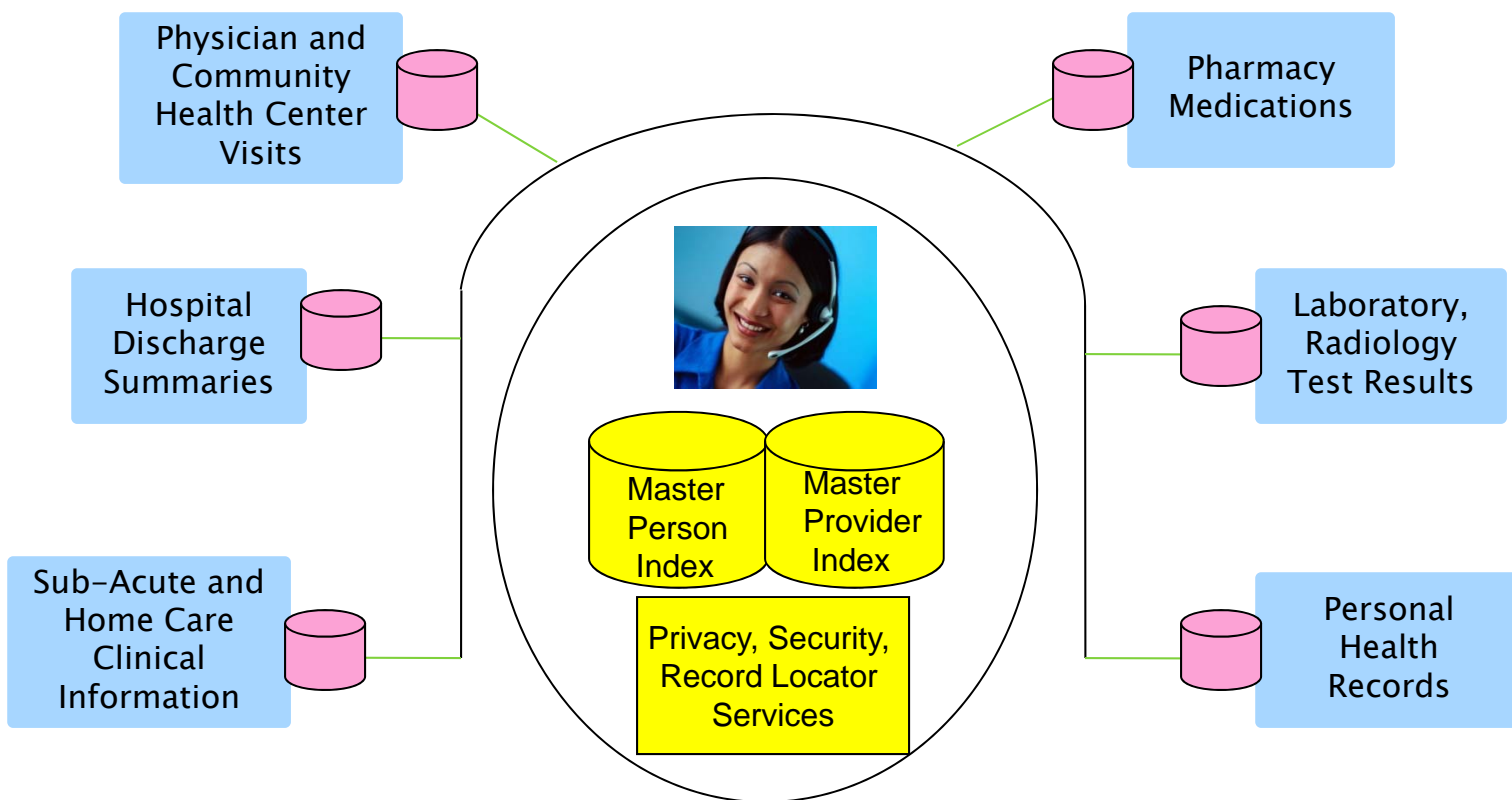
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eHealthConnecticut and DSS



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What is Health Information Exchange?



-  eHealthConnecticut Services Available Statewide
-  Private HIT System
-  Private Health Data Accessible by eHealthConnecticut

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Benefits of HIE

- ✓ Improves the quality of your medical care
- ✓ Reduces medical errors
- ✓ Tracks who, when and why your medical records are accessed
- ✓ Improves the safety of your medical care
- ✓ Reduces duplication of important medical tests

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Potential Risks

- ✓ Identity theft
- ✓ Data errors
- ✓ Hackers

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How does the HIE work?

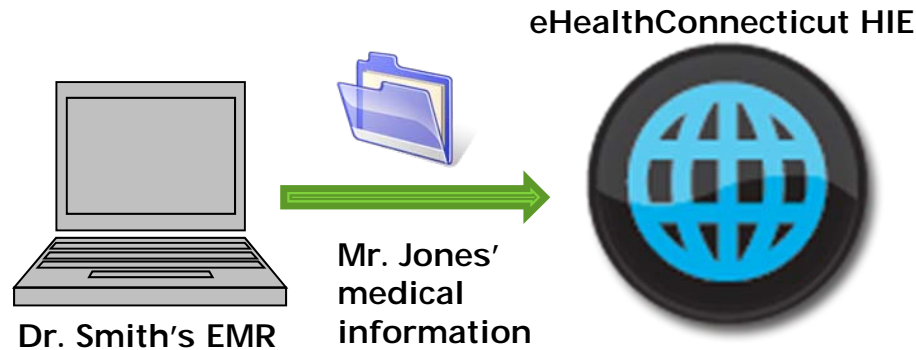
Step One: A Visit to your Doctor



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How does the HIE work?

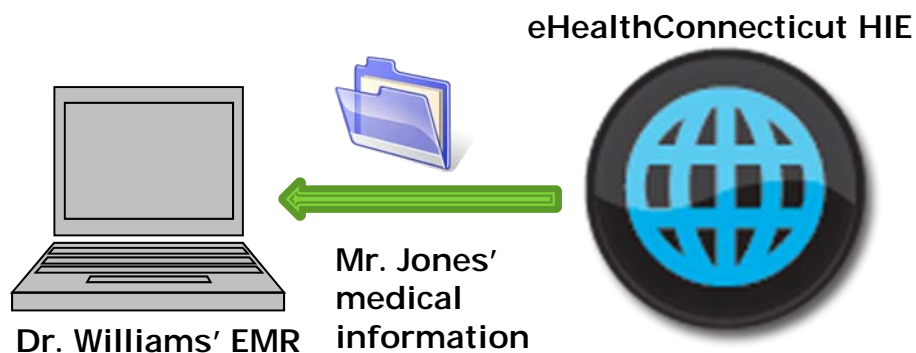
Step Two: How your Doctor shares your medical information with the HIE



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How does the HIE work?

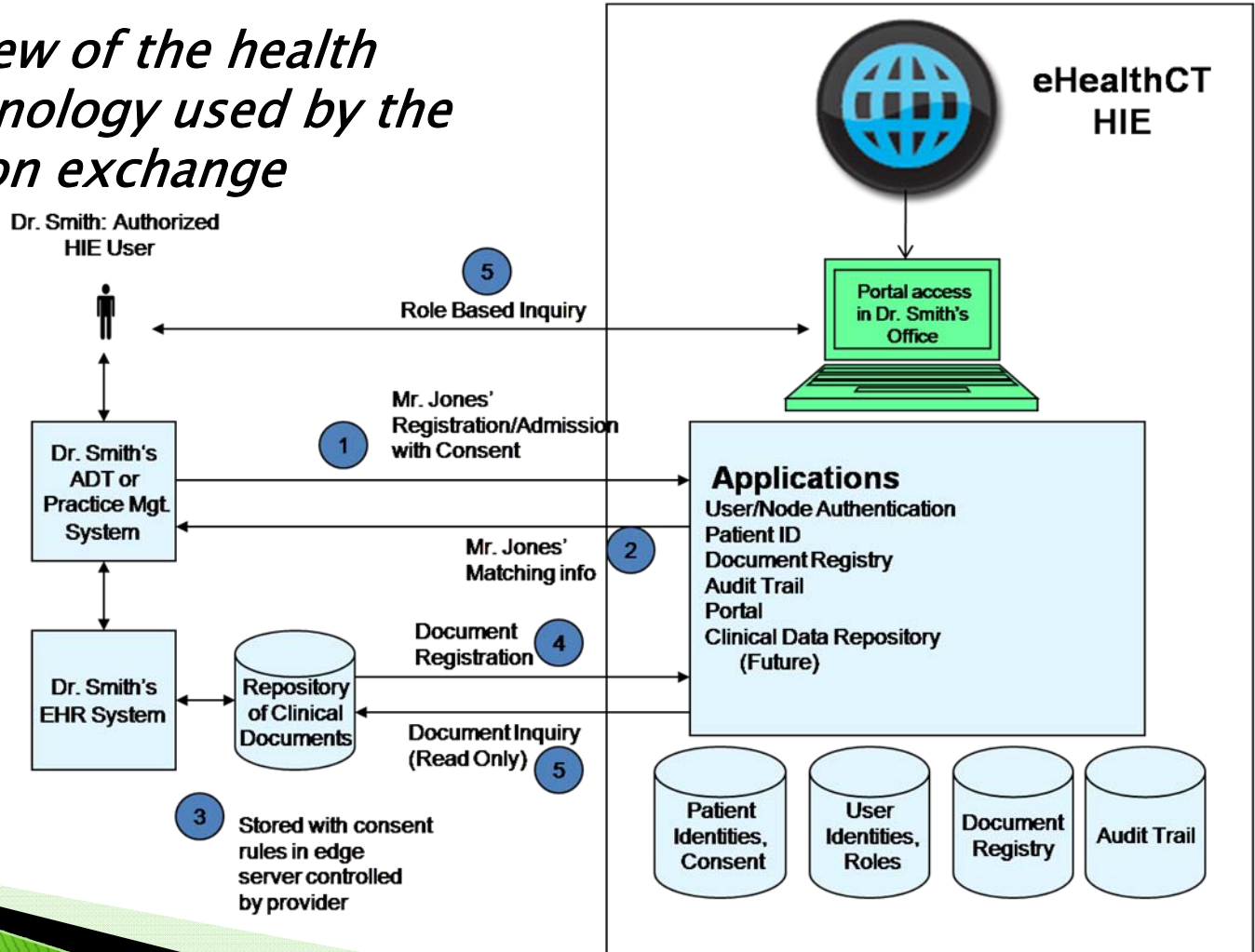
Step Three: How your Doctor can view your medical information on the HIE



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How does the HIE work?

Technical Overview of the health information technology used by the health information exchange



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Privacy and Patient Consent

OPT-IN: You can choose to share your medical information with all of your doctors involved in your medical care.

OPT-OUT: You can choose to not allow your doctors to share information about you through the eHealthConnecticut HIE.

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Security on the HIE

- ▶ eHealthConnecticut Privacy and Security Policies
- ▶ Industry standards required by the HIPAA Security Rule, the ARRA HITECH Act, and suggested by iHE standards
- ▶ Compliance with the HIPAA Security Rule
- ▶ Guidance and assistance with training and technologies for automated compliance
- ▶ Role Based Security
- ▶ 24x7 Audit System

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Resources

- eHealthConnecticut, Inc.
- CT Department of Social Services
- Community Health Centers Assoc. of CT
- Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office Of the National Coordinator
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

www.ehealthconnecticut.org

www.ct.gov/dss

www.chcact.org

www.healthit.hhs.gov

www.cms.gov

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How to Learn More

1. I'm interested in learning more about the benefits and risks of the eHealthCT HIE. Where can I find more information?

Answer: Be sure to talk with your doctor about the eHealthCT HIE. Your doctor and his/her staff will provide you with an patient education fact sheet which describes the HIE, how it works, and how it will impact the health care you receive. Additional information can be found on the eHealthCT website, www.ehealthconnecticut.org

2. How can I participate in the HIE?

Answer: The administrative staff in your doctor's office will provide you with information about the HIE. If you choose to participate, your doctor or his/her staff will ask you to sign a form giving consent to participate in the HIE.

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How to Learn More

3. How will my doctors know if my health information is available on the HIE?

Answer: Your doctors will be able to search for patient information on the HIE using your name and additional pieces of demographic information.

4. Does participating in the HIE cost me anything?

Answer: No. The CT DSS is funding the eHealthCT HIE pilot program with federal grant funding from CMS. It doesn't matter whether or not you have insurance. It only matters that you receive health care from a participating health care provider.

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How to Learn More

5. Do all my health care providers participate in the eHealthCT HIE?

Answer: No, only a limited number of hospitals and community health centers are participating in the initial phase of this pilot program. You should talk to your doctor to see if he/she is participating during Phase 1.

6. What do I get if I participate?

Answer: Once your medical information is in the HIE, you will no longer have to fill out all those forms at each doctor's office. Your doctor will be able to pull up that information and simply ask you to confirm it. In addition, you will not have to fill out forms for your elderly parents or your children. The information is automatically updated every time you visit a participating eHealthCT HIE doctor.

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Please visit the eHealthConnecticut website,
www.ehealthconnecticut.org to learn more about
eHealthConnecticut's health information exchange