



## Health Information Exchange Participation Notice

Desert Star Healthcare participates in Arizona's Health information exchange called Contexture. We feel this is important to have access to your records from other providers, hospitals, and urgent care participants. We will receive a notice if you are admitted to the hospital or critically abnormal labs or imaging are found. Participation helps reduce unnecessary repeating of tests, which keeps health costs down. It also improves the safety and quality of your care.

You may choose to opt out of this program at any time. This will not affect your relationship with our office. If you choose to opt out after reading the following information from the HIE, please let us know so that we may provide you with an OPT OUT form.

The information that follows is directly from Contexture:

### Notice of Health Information Practices

You are receiving this notice because your healthcare provider participates in a non-profit, non-governmental health information exchange (HIE) called Contexture. It will not cost you anything and can help your doctor, healthcare providers, and health plans better coordinate your care by securely sharing your health information. This Notice explains how the HIE works and will help you understand your rights regarding the HIE under state and federal law.

### How does an HIE help you to get better care?

In a paper-based record system, your health information is mailed or faxed to your doctor, but sometimes these records are lost or don't arrive in time for your appointment. If you allow your health information to be shared through the HIE, your doctors are able to access it electronically in a secure and timely manner.

### What health information is available through the HIE?

The following types of health information may be available:

- \*Hospital records
- \*Medical history
- \*Medications
- \*Allergies
- \*Lab test results
- \*Radiology reports
- \*Clinic and doctor visit information
- \*Health plan enrollment and eligibility
- \*Other information helpful for your treatment

### Who can view your health information through the HIE and when can it be shared?

People involved in your care will have access to your health information. This may include your doctors, nurses, other healthcare providers, health plan and any organization or person who is working on behalf of your healthcare providers and health plan. They may access your information for treatment, care coordination, care or case management, transition of care planning, payment for your treatment, conducting quality assessment and improvement activities, developing clinical guidelines and protocols, conducting patient safety activities, and population health services. Medical examiners, public health authorities, organ



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procurement organizations, and others may also access health information for certain approved purposes, such as conducting death investigations, public health investigations and organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation, as permitted by applicable law.

The HIE may also use your health information as required by law and as necessary to perform services for healthcare providers, health plans and others participating with the HIE.

The Contexture Board of Directors can expand the reasons why healthcare providers and others may access your health information in the future as long as the access is permitted by law. That information is on the Contexture website at <https://contexture.org/hie-main/>.

You also may permit others to access your health information by signing an authorization form. They may only access the health information described in the authorization form for the purposes stated on that form.

### **Does the HIE receive behavioral health information and if so, who can access it?**

Contexture does receive behavioral health information, including substance abuse treatment records. Federal law gives special confidentiality protection to substance abuse treatment records from some substance abuse treatment programs. The HIE keeps these protected substance abuse treatment records separate from the rest of your health information. The HIE will only share these protected substance abuse treatment records it receives from these programs in two cases. One, medical personnel may access this information in a medical emergency. Two, you may sign a consent form giving your healthcare provider or others access to this information.

### **How is your health information protected?**

Federal and state laws, such as HIPAA, protect the confidentiality of your health information. Your information is shared using secure transmission. The HIE has security measures in place to prevent someone who is not authorized from having access. Each person has a username and password, and the system records all access to your information.

### **Your Rights Regarding Secure Electronic Information Sharing You have the right to:**

1. Ask for a copy of your health information that is available through Contexture. To make this request, complete the Health Information Request Form and return it to your healthcare provider.
2. Request to have any information in the HIE corrected. If any information in the HIE is incorrect, you can ask your healthcare provider to correct the information.
3. Ask for a list of people who have viewed your information through the HIE. To make this request, complete the Health Information Request Form and return it to your healthcare provider. Please let your healthcare provider know if you think someone has viewed your information who should not have.



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**You have the right under article 27, section 2 of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Revised Statutes title 36, section 3802 to keep your health information from being shared electronically through the HIE:**

1. Except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, you may “opt out” of having your information shared through the HIE. To opt out, ask your healthcare provider for the Opt Out Form. Your information will not be available for sharing through the HIE within 30 days of Contexture receiving your Opt Out Form from your healthcare provider.

Caution: If you opt out, your health information will NOT be available to your healthcare providers—even in an emergency.

2. If you opt out today, you can change your mind at any time by completing an Opt Back In Form and returning it to your healthcare provider.

3. If you allow your health information to be shared through the HIE, you may opt out in the future.

**MY SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES I UNDERSTAND THAT DESERT STAR HEALTHCARE PARTICIPATES IN ARIZONA’S HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (HIE). I UNDERSTAND THAT MY HEALTH INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED WITH THE HIE UNLESS I COMPLETE AN OPT-OUT FORM.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_