

## HHHN, HIXNY, Commonwell, and Carequality Fact Sheet

**Details about patient information shared by Hudson Headwaters Health Network (“HHHN”), the CommonWell Health Alliance (“CommonWell”), Carequality, and the Health Information Xchange of New York (“HIXNY”) and the consent process:**

- 1. How Your Information Will be Used.** Your electronic health information will be used by HHHN and Providers associated with CommonWell and Carequality only to:
- Provide you with medical treatment and related services.
  - Check whether you have health insurance and what it covers.
  - Evaluate and improve the quality of medical care provided to all patients.

Unless otherwise permitted by State and Federal law and if permitted by HIXNY, your electronic health information shall be disclosed, accessed and used by HHHN healthcare insurance plans only to:

- Provide Care Management Activities. These include assisting you in obtaining appropriate medical care, improving the quality of healthcare services provided to you, coordinating the provision of multiple health care services provided to you, or supporting you in following a plan of medical care.
- Provide Quality Improvement Activities. These include evaluating and improving the quality of medical care provided to you and all HHHN patients and members.

**NOTE: The choice you make in this Consent Form does NOT allow health insurers to have access to your information for the purpose of deciding whether to give you health insurance or pay your bills. You can make that choice in a separate Consent Form that health insurers must use.**

- 2. What Types of Information About You Are Included.** If you give consent, HHHN and authorized CommonWell and Carequality Providers may access ALL of your electronic health information available through CommonWell and Carequality and all employees, agents and members of the medical staff of HHHN may access ALL of your electronic health information available through HIXNY. This includes information created before and after the date of this Consent Form. Your health records may include a history of illnesses or injuries you have had (like diabetes or a broken bone), test results (like X-rays or blood tests), and lists of medicines you have taken. This information may relate to sensitive health conditions, including but not limited to:

• Alcohol or drug use problems	• Mental health conditions
• Birth control and abortion (family planning)	• HIV/AIDS
• Genetic (inherited) diseases or tests	• Sexually transmitted diseases

**\*If you have received alcohol or drug abuse care, your record may include information related to your alcohol or drug abuse diagnoses, such as medications and dosages, lab test results, allergies, substance use history, trauma history, hospital discharges, employment, living situation and social support, and health insurance claims history.**

- 3. Where Health Information About You Comes From.** Information about you comes from places that have provided you with medical care or health insurance (“Information Sources”). These may include hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, clinical laboratories, health insurers, the Medicaid program, and other ehealth organizations that exchange health information electronically. A complete list of current Information Sources affiliated with HHHN is available from HHHN, at any time by checking HHHN’s website at [\\_HHHN.org\\_](http://HHHN.org), or You can contact the HHHN Privacy Officer by writing to: HHHN, Privacy Officer, 9 Carey Road, Queensbury, NY 12804 or calling: 518-761-0300. A complete list of approved CommonWell and Carequality Providers are available at : <https://www.commonwellalliance.org/who-is-connected/> and <https://carequality.org/active-sites-search/>. A complete list of current HIXNY Information Sources is available at any time by checking the HIXNY website at <https://www.hixny.org/healthcare-community/partners/> or by calling HIXNY at 518-640-0021.

4. **Who May Access Information About You, If You Give Consent.** Only these people may access information about you: doctors and other health care providers who serve on the medical staff of HHHN or an approved CommonWell and/or Carequality Provider who are involved in your medical care; health care providers who are covering or on call for one of HHHN's doctors or a CommonWell and/or Carequality Provider's doctors; designated staff involved in quality improvement or care management activities; and staff members of HHHN or an approved CommonWell and/or Carequality Provider who carry out activities permitted by this Consent Form as described above in paragraph one.
5. **Penalties for Improper Access to or Use of Your Information.** There are penalties for inappropriate access to or use of your electronic health information. If at any time you suspect that someone who should not have seen or gotten access to information about you has done so, contact our Risk Management & Compliance Department at 518-761-0300 ext. 31314 or via email at [patientconcerns@hhhn.org](mailto:patientconcerns@hhhn.org), contact one of the CommonWell and/or Carequality Providers you have approved to access your records; or call the NYS Department of Health at 877-690-2211. If at any time you suspect that someone should not have seen or gotten access to information about you has done so through HIXNY, call HIXNY at: **518-640-0021**; or visit HIXNY's website: <http://www.hixny.org>; or call the NYS Department of Health at 518-474-5423.
6. **Re-disclosure of Information.** Any electronic health information about you may be re-disclosed by HHHN or CommonWell and/or Carequality Providers to others only to the extent permitted by state and federal laws and regulations. This is also true for health information about you that exists in a paper form. As stated in #2 above, if you give consent, ALL of your electronic health information, including sensitive health information will be available through CommonWell and/or Carequality. Some state and federal laws provide special protections for some kinds of sensitive health information, including related to: (i) your assessment, treatment or examination of a health condition by certain providers; (ii) HIV/AIDS; (iii) mental illness; (iv) mental retardation and developmental disabilities; (v) substance abuse; and (vi) predisposition genetic testing. Their special requirements must be followed whenever people receive these kinds of sensitive health information. HHHN, HIXNY and persons, including CommonWell and/or Carequality Providers, who access this information through these health information exchanges must comply with these requirements.
7. **Effective Period.** This Consent Form will remain in effect until the day you withdraw your consent or until such time as HHHN ceases operation, whichever is later.
8. **Withdrawing Your Consent.** You can withdraw your consent at any time by signing a Withdrawal of Consent Form and giving it to HHHN. You can also change your consent choices by signing a new Consent Form at any time.

**Note: Organizations, including CommonWell and/or Carequality Providers, that access your health information through CommonWell, Carequality, and/or HIXNY while your consent is in effect may copy or include your information in their own medical records. Even if you later decide to withdraw your consent, they are not required to return it or remove it from their records.**

9. **Refusing to Check a Box (make a choice).** Unless you check the "I DENY CONSENT" box, New York State law allows the people treating you in an emergency to get access to your medical records, including records that are available through CommonWell and/or Carequality. If you do not make a choice, the records will not be shared except in an emergency as allowed by New York State Law.
10. **Copy of Form.** You are entitled to get a copy of this Consent Form after you sign it.
11. **Risks of Denying Consent.** If you deny consent for HHHN and CommonWell and/or Carequality Providers to access your information through CommonWell and/or Carequality, your healthcare providers may not be able to access critical health information about you, obtained during a prior encounter, in a timely manner.

## HHHN, HIXNY, COMMONWELL, AND CAREQUALITY CONSENT FORM

In this Consent Form, you can choose whether to allow Hudson Headwaters Health Network (“HHHN”) health care providers and non-HHHN health care providers who may request access to your medical records for purposes of current treatment (“Providers”) to obtain access to your medical records and/or health information through a computer network operated by the CommonWell Health Alliance (“CommonWell”) and/or Carequality. In order to enable HHHN and other providers to know what information may be available about you through CommonWell and and/or Carequality, you must enroll in CommonWell and Carequality and verify the other providers where you were or are a patient. This can help your Providers collect the medical records you have in different places where you get health care, and make them available electronically to the Providers treating you. A complete list of approved CommonWell and Carequality Providers are available : <https://www.commonwellalliance.org/who-is-connected/> and <https://carequality.org/active-sites-search/>.

You may also use this Consent Form to decide whether or not to allow employees, agents or members of the medical staff of HHHN to see and obtain access to your electronic health records through HIXNY, which is a Health Information Exchange, or Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), a not-for-profit organization recognized by the state of New York. This can also help collect the medical records you have in different places where you get healthcare, and make them available electronically to the Providers treating you. This consent also gives your permission for any HHHN program in which you are a patient or member, to access your records from your other healthcare providers authorized to disclose information through HIXNY. A complete list of current HIXNY Information Sources is available from HIXNY and can be obtained at any time by checking the HIXNY website at <https://www.hixny.org/healthcare-community/partners/> or by **calling HIXNY at 518-640-0021**. Upon request, your provider will print this list for you from the HIXNY website.

You can give consent or deny consent, and this form may be filled out now or at a later date. **YOUR CHOICE WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO GET MEDICAL CARE OR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE. YOUR CHOICE TO GIVE OR TO DENY CONSENT MAY NOT BE THE BASIS FOR DENIAL OF HEALTH SERVICES.**

HHHN and HIXNY share information about people’s health electronically and securely to improve the quality of health care services. This kind of sharing is called ehealth or health information technology (health IT). To learn more about ehealth in New York State, read the brochure, “Better Information Means Better Care.” You can ask your health care provider for it, or go to the website [www.ehealth4ny.org](http://www.ehealth4ny.org). HHHN and other Providers also share information about people’s health with CommonWell and Carequality to provide you with medical treatment and related services. To learn more about CommonWell and Carequality visit their websites at <https://www.commonwellalliance.org> or <https://www.carequality.org>.

**PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMATION ON THE FACT SHEET BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION.**

**Your Consent Choices.** You can fill out this form now or in the future. You have the following choices:  
Please check Box 1 or 2:

- ☐ **1. I GIVE CONSENT to ALL employees, agents and members of the medical staff of HHHN to access ALL of my electronic health information through CommonWell and Carequality and I GIVE CONSENT to ALL employees, agents and members of the medical staff of HHHN to access ALL of my electronic health information through HIXNY in connection with any of the permitted purposes described in the fact sheet, including providing me any health care services, including emergency care.**
- ☐ **2. I DENY CONSENT to ALL employees, agents and members of the medical staff of HHHN to access my electronic health information through CommonWell, Carequality, or HIXNY for any purpose, even in a medical emergency.**

**NOTE: UNLESS YOU CHECK THE “I DENY CONSENT” BOX, New York State law allows the people treating you in an emergency to get access to your medical records, including records that are available through CommonWell. IF YOU DON'T MAKE A CHOICE, the records will not be shared except in an emergency as allowed by New York State Law.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient or Patient’s Legal Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)  
to Patient (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship of Legal Representative