



### **What is the Interboro RHIO?**

The Interboro RHIO has been formed to allow the sharing of information between providers – including hospitals, home care facilities, and community physicians – in Queens, Northern Brooklyn, and the surrounding areas.

Most health care providers store information about your health in paper records or in computer systems that are only accessible to them. If you've seen more than one doctor, your records are likely stored in different places. This makes it hard to pull them all together for a complete picture of your health.

The Interboro RHIO supports technology that allows your doctors, nurses, and other health care providers to share their medical records using a computer network, instead of paper. This technology will help your health care providers – like your doctor – make information about your health available to other providers you choose, so you can get better care.

### **How can the Interboro RHIO help you?**

- When your records are easily available in one place on a computer, your doctors can see a more complete picture of your health, and you can get better care.
- By helping your health care provider see the results of your medical tests, you may avoid taking some tests more than once.
- Information that could save your life in an emergency is easy to get to in a hurry.
- You won't always have to answer the same questions every time you visit a doctor, clinic, or hospital.
- Your information is safe in a system that can only be used by the people who are caring for you, and only with your consent.

### **How do I participate?**

As the Interboro RHIO develops and the number of doctors participating grows, your health care provider may ask you for "consent" – or permission – to access your personal health data through the Interboro RHIO technology.

Each patient has the right to decide who can access your health information through the Interboro RHIO by giving your consent. If your doctor or other health care provider participates in the Interboro RHIO, they will give you a consent form so you can decide whether they are allowed to see your information to help give you better care. If you consent, your electronic health information will only be used 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

You have the right to deny consent at any time. If you deny consent to your doctor or other health care provider, they will not be able to access your health information through the Interboro RHIO – *even in an emergency*.



Your decision to give or deny consent will not affect your ability to get medical care or health insurance coverage.

If you've already given consent, you can withdraw your consent at any time by signing a Withdrawal of Consent Form and returning it to the Interboro RHIO. You can get these forms on the Interboro RHIO's website at [interbororhio.org](http://interbororhio.org).

**Information accessed through the Interboro RHIO may include ALL of your medical information, including but not limited to, sensitive information related to HIV/AIDS, mental health, genetic disease or tests, alcohol or drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and family planning.**

### **Is my health information secure?**

Many people are worried about privacy and security when it comes to their health. Interboro RHIO is doing everything it can to protect the privacy of your electronic health records:

- Only doctors, staff, and organizations whom you choose by using a consent form are allowed to access your records through the Interboro RHIO
- Safeguards like passwords and other protections will prevent your records from being accessed without proper permission
- You can request a list of everyone in the Interboro RHIO who has accessed your records
- If illegal access does occur, you will be told and steps will be taken to correct the problem so it won't happen again.
- All participating Interboro RHIO providers must follow New York State and Federal privacy and confidentiality laws

### **How can I get more information about the Interboro RHIO?**

To get more information about participating in the Interboro RHIO or to see if your doctor is linked to the system, you can visit us online at

**[www.interbororhio.org](http://www.interbororhio.org)**

or call 718-334-5844 or mail a request to Interboro RHIO, PO Box 800038, Elmhurst, NY 11380.

This list of participating health care providers will be updated from time-to-time as the Interboro RHIO continues to grow.