



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CALMHSA CONNEX HIE CONSENT

Client Name _____ Client ID _____

**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN CONNEX Health information Exchange
(HIE)**

PURPOSE

I hereby agree, on behalf of myself or my child, to participate in CalMHSA's Connex Health information Exchange (HIE). I understand that I have the right to speak with clinical staff about the information in the frequently asked questions (FAQ) and ask additional questions to further understand the HIE.

MY INFORMATION

I acknowledge that I was informed of the types of information that will be shared in the HIE.

PRIVACY PRACTICES

I acknowledge that I have been offered a copy of County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency's Notice of Privacy Practices, which has information about the HIE and how my/my child's health information may be used and disclosed within the HIE.

I acknowledge that I have been offered a copy of County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency's FAQ on the HIE that outlines additional information about the information shared through the HIE.

THE BENEFITS

I understand the benefits to participating in CalMHSA's Connex HIE as described in the FAQ.

THE RISKS

The Health Agency complies with Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex or any other protected class

County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency

2180 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-4719 | (F) 805-781-1273
slobehavioralhealth.org



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CALMHSA CONNEX HIE CONSENT FAQ**

I understand the risks associated with participating in CalMHSA's Connex HIE as described in the FAQ, whether those risks pertain to my/my child's information being shared or risks to not participating in the HIE.

INFORMED CONSENT

By signing, I acknowledge that I understand the information contained in this document and the FAQ and I agree to my or my child's participation in CalMHSA Connex.

Client Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Relationship _____

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What is CalMHSA Connex?

CalMHSA Connex is a Health Information Exchange, or HIE. An HIE provides a way of sharing health information (data) between participating doctors' offices, hospitals, labs, radiology centers, behavioral health professionals and other health care providers through secure and efficient electronic means. Data exchange has always existed with health care providers. When a person is referred to a specialist by their primary care provider, the receiving provider always requests a treatment history to assist with determining the best route of care. In the past, this was done via fax or traditional mail delivery. The difference between an HIE and historical means to share data is an HIE provides for a more modern, real-time sharing of your data for each participating caregiver to benefit from the most recent information available about you from other participating providers.

Why is an HIE necessary?

As a part of the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) CalAIM [initiative](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/CalAIM.aspx) (www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/CalAIM.aspx), in an effort to create a more coordinated, client-centric, and equitable health system, DHCS implemented new requirements to contracted organizations that require participation in an HIE as the medium by which data is exchanged, and thus improving care coordination.. CalMHSA's Connex is the HIE the County of San Luis Obispo chose.

What is in my CalMHSA Connex HIE Client record?

Your CalMHSA Connex HIE client record can include your medications, allergies, current and past test results, and summaries of your past and current health conditions. Due to interoperability requirements, the data

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shared via HIE is ever changing, however, data shared via Connex will be limited to United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) data. You can find specific information about USCDI [here](http://www.healthit.gov/isa/united-states-core-data-interoperability-uscdi) (www.healthit.gov/isa/united-states-core-data-interoperability-uscdi). Specific records relating to abortion-related services, gender-affirming care, HIV, and Substance Use Disorder records have additional protections and are not included in the information exchanged via HIE at this time. Having timely access to a more complete and accurate health record will help your caregivers work together more easily, make better decisions about your care, eliminate redundant forms, and reduce mistakes, especially in an emergency.

Who can see my records?

For the purposes of treatment, payment, or operations, only health care providers who are treating you and their authorized staff who are specifically given rights to the HIE network can access your records through CalMHSA Connex. For example, if one of your providers participates in an HIE, or a connected network, they can access your health information maintained by your other providers who also share data electronically via an HIE. Providers that are connected to an HIE are still held by applicable HIPAA standards that require the minimum necessary records are accessed to complete a job and only records that pertain to their job are accessed. This is not a “free range” data exchange for providers to access records that they have no valid reason for accessing.

How is my health information protected?

CalMHSA Connex, along with your caregiver, is committed to keeping your records private and secure. Clear and strict federal and state guidelines

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govern how your health information can be exchanged, viewed, or used. Information that identifies you will not be sold or made available for other purposes. Only those who provide you with care will be able to view your health information, and only when needed to provide or coordinate your care, make referrals, submit mandatory public health reports, or provide health care benefits to you.

What can CalMHSA Connex HIE do for me?

If you see multiple doctors who participate in the CalMHSA Connex HIE, they may see a more complete picture of your health and make more informed treatment decisions. The goal is for you to receive coordinated care more efficiently. Your health care information is available to participating health care providers where and when they need it without delay.

Are there risks to opting out?

Clients' rights are very important to us. At the County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency, all clients are opted out by default, meaning your information is **not** shared within the HIE by default. It is your decision whether your information is transmitted through the CalMHSA Connex HIE. The goal of Connex is to provide all your caregivers secure access to the best available information about your health. If your information is not included in Connex, your caregivers may have less information about you when making a diagnosis or when making decisions with you about your care. There will also be continued delays in sharing your information with other providers, which could impact your ability to get the best possible care at the time of your doctor's visit because they need to obtain information via a general Release of Information. Have you ever gone to a doctor's

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appointment, but they had to reschedule because your lab or diagnostic results were not available or sent prior to your appointment time? Participating in Connex could prevent this from happening if your other provider is connected to the exchange network.

I want to participate. How can I opt in?

To participate in the HIE, please contact ask your clinical staff to opt you in.

Your choice to remain opted out of the Health Information Exchange will not affect your ability to access medical care. Opting out will not fully prevent your caregivers from sharing your health information with authorized entities, when necessary, for example, for public health or research purposes that are permitted or required by federal and state law. In cases of medical emergency, your health record may be disclosed without your authorization so your provider can ensure you obtain proper care during your emergency medical condition.

For additional general information on Health Information Exchanges, please visit [this](http://www.healthit.gov/topic/health-it-and-health-information-exchange-basics/what-hie) website (www.healthit.gov/topic/health-it-and-health-information-exchange-basics/what-hie).

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