

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ABOUT CURRENTCARE / RI's HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

#### **What is currentcare?**

currentcare is Rhode Island's Health Information Exchange (HIE). An HIE is a secure electronic network that allows all your doctors and other healthcare providers you choose to see your up-to-date health information using a computer. This type of access helps them provide you with the best possible care because they can see all the information about your most recent medications and lab test results. If you visit a hospital emergency room, the doctors there also will have access to the same information.

Signing up for currentcare is voluntary, which means we need your permission to include your information. It is **free** for you and your doctors. **1 in 5 Rhode Islanders have already signed up for the service**, which will lead to fewer medical errors, fewer hospital stays, and unnecessary emergency room visits.

#### **Why should I sign up for currentcare?**

If you are like many people, you see more than one doctor, take several medications, and get lab tests at different locations. This sometimes makes it difficult for your healthcare providers to coordinate all your care. currentcare lets all your healthcare providers have up-to-date information about you in one place to give you the best possible care. If you have a medical emergency, currentcare lets the doctors at a hospital emergency room use a computer to see your most up-to-date health information.

By signing up for currentcare now, you can begin to build a history of your important health information that will be ready and available for your doctors when they start using the service. There are many places to sign up for currentcare, including doctors' offices, community health centers, and not-for-profit organizations that are community partners of the Rhode Island Quality Institute.

#### **Do I have to pay to sign up for currentcare?**

No, currentcare is **free** for you, your family, and your doctors. It does not matter what type of health insurance you have. The service is paid for by state and federal grants and from contributions from major healthcare providers and insurers.

#### **What information is in currentcare?**

After you sign up, currentcare begins to add your test results from medical laboratories such as East Side Clinical Laboratories. For example, when you have a blood test at one of these labs, the results automatically go into currentcare's computer system.

During the next few months, currentcare will begin to include more of your health information, such as your medication history, x-ray reports, and information about your hospital stays and emergency room visits.

#### **How do you protect my health information in currentcare?**

Rhode Island state law says that your health information in currentcare can be seen only by the doctors and healthcare providers that you have given permission to see it. The Rhode Island Department of Health may also see your information when necessary to fulfill their duty to protect public health. currentcare's

advanced computer system keeps your information safe and secure. In addition, you will be able to know who has looked at your medical information.

All healthcare providers who receive your health information from currentcare have to follow the rules of HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act created in 1996). In some cases, they must also follow other federal and state laws about disclosing your protected health information (PHI). The risk of someone seeing your PHI from currentcare is not higher than someone seeing it from another electronic data system, such as your doctor's electronic health record.

#### ***Who has access to my information in currentcare?***

If you want your health information to be available in currentcare so your doctors can see it, you simply need to sign up and give your consent (permission). You can decide whether all or only some of your doctors can see the information, or if you want healthcare providers to see your information only in an emergency. Health insurance companies, your employer, and others do not have access to your information in currentcare.

#### ***Which sign-up option should I choose on the enrollment form?***

You are free to choose any of the sign-up choices. Most patients pick Option #1; this is the option that lets all your medical doctors (including those who treat you in a hospital's emergency room) to see your health information in currentcare.

Option #2 on the form lets you tell us that you only want doctors to see your currentcare information in an emergency. Choosing Option #3 means that you want only some of your doctors to see your information in currentcare and any doctor who treats you in an emergency, on a temporary basis.

#### ***Do I have to live in Rhode Island to sign up for currentcare?***

No. You do not have to live in Rhode Island to sign up for currentcare. However, signing up is most useful to people who get most of their healthcare in Rhode Island. At this time, only doctors and other healthcare providers in Rhode Island will be able to use currentcare to look up your information.

#### ***If I change my job, do I have to sign up again?***

No. You only need to sign up for currentcare once, if you signed up after you turned 18 years old. If a parent or guardian signed you up before you turned 18, you will be contacted and asked if you want to sign up yourself as an adult.

#### ***Can I change my mind and not be in currentcare?***

Yes. Signing up for currentcare is voluntary. You can choose to stop participating at any time by filling out and sending a "Revocation of Authorization Form" to the Rhode Island Quality Institute. This form can be downloaded from the Internet at [www.currentcareri.com](http://www.currentcareri.com).

**Visit [www.currentcareri.com](http://www.currentcareri.com) or Call currentcare Member Services at 1-888-858-4815 and choose "3"**