



Notice on Electronic Medical Record Use

Yale University has partnered with Yale New Haven Health System to adopt an electronic medical record (EMR) known as Epic to improve the health care that you receive at Yale. The EMR helps clinical staff at Yale, including Yale Medical Group and Yale Health, to share information with other treatment providers to ensure that we are able to provide our patients with quality medical care.

What is it?

Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) are digital (or electronic) versions of the charts in the clinician's office that can be shared by doctors, hospitals, and clinicians. An EMR contains the medical and treatment history of the patient including appointment history across clinics or hospital departments, lab or test results, medications, allergies, and health history. Government regulations require that doctors implement EMRs and in the future, EMRs will be able to share information so that patient medical records are available wherever the patient seeks care, including outside of Yale University. Timely access to patient records can be critical to patient care in emergency situations. EMRs improve the overall quality of care and patient experience in a number of ways including allowing clinicians to easily track a patient's health date over time, identifying patients who would benefit from preventative visits or screenings, and allow a patient's record to more easily move with the patient as the patient goes to various health care providers, specialists, hospitals, even across states.

Who participates?

All of the Yale New Haven Health System facilities (YNHHS) including Greenwich, Bridgeport, Yale-New Haven hospitals and the St. Raphael campus, as well as at Yale Medical Group and the Northeast Medical Group (NEMG), community practices and Yale Health. This includes many providers and clinics. Anywhere you see the Yale New Haven Health logo (see below), your physician is using the Epic EMR. For children or teens, this includes the Yale Primary Care Center, the Adolescent Medicine Clinic, the Refugee Clinic, and the St. Raphael's Pediatric Primary Care Clinic as well as clinical programs in the Yale Child Study Center and Yale Health. There are also some doctors who are not affiliated with Yale University or YNHHS that have chosen to also use our medical record system.



Why are we talking about this?

We want you to understand that we can see information about your health care when you go to appointments with a provider using the Epic EMR. We also want you to be able to ask questions and tell us if you have any concerns.

Can anyone else see my information?

Yes, staff working in clinical areas have access to the electronic medical record when needed to perform their job. However, all staff including clinicians, supervisors, and support staff may only access that information for which they have a clinical or administrative need to review. In other words, the only information accessed is that needed to do their job. We have a program to monitor access by our staff to ensure that staff access records appropriately.

If you have additional questions about the way in which our programs use the electronic medical record, please feel free to contact the HIPAA Privacy Office at hipaa@yale.edu.