

## **Subject: HIE INFORMATION - ACTION REQUIRED**

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT - ACTION NEEDED\*\*\***

Have you heard about OKSHINE or HIE - Oklahoma State Health Information Exchange? HIE is a state mandated program that will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

OKSHINE dictates that ALL licensed medical providers in the state of Oklahoma, doctors, mid-level providers, physical/occupational therapists, chiropractors, mental health providers (therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists), pharmacists, dentists, etc., will be REQUIRED to give the state access to their electronic medical records. The state will then pull patient information into the state-run OKSHINE system. (This applies to ALL licensed providers whether or not they accept insurance or are cash pay entities.)

Per the OKSHINE website, the state's system will pull the following information from individual providers:

- Names of the doctors/health professionals who provide your care
- Diagnoses
- Current medications prescribed to you
- Lab and x-ray results
- Past procedures
- Known allergies
- Immunization records
- Hospital discharge records
- Basic personal information (your name, address, family phone contacts, etc.)

As of now, patients have the ability to "opt out" for "sensitive" medical information, but our understanding is that all patient information will still be submitted to the state, but those with opt out forms will have more protection from others accessing it once in the state system.

OKSHINE says it will have measures in place to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing patient information, but we do not know what those safeguards will be. We also don't know how available those records will be to other corporate entities - life insurance companies, long term care companies, potential employers, other providers/staff, etc - especially in the future.

Because of the nature of our practice, our patient population, the amount of specialized testing (immunization titers, epigenetic testing, mental health notes/diagnoses, hormone testing, past medical procedures, and on and on) in our electronic medical records, and the financial cost to the clinic (we have to pay an initiation fee >\$10,000, as well as monthly fees to support the process), we are OPPOSED to the state having access to our electronic medical records and being able to download sensitive patient information. We are doing all that we can to protect our patients and our practice, but our options are very limited at this time.

We have filed for an exemption, but our understanding is that we likely do not meet the requirements outlined. We are asking patients to be informed regarding HIE regulations, contact your representatives for more information and request a hold be placed on this legislation. In the meantime, we have an OPT OUT FORM that needs to be signed and submitted back to us ASAP. Our hope is that if a majority of our patients OPT OUT, then we will have a better chance of exemption as a whole.

If you would like to sign an OPT OUT form for our office, send an email to [optout@REDACTED](mailto:optout@REDACTED) and we will send you a fillable form to sign and return to our office, or we have copies available to sign in person at our office.