A Physician’s Guide
to Health Information Exchange
What is HIE?

Health Information Exchange, or HIE, is the technology that supports the flow of health information between physician practices, hospitals, labs, radiology centers, and other health care institutions.

HIE allows delivery of the right health information to the right place at the right time, providing safer, more timely, efficient, patient-centered care.

CRISP—Maryland’s State-designated entity for Health Information Exchange—is responsible for developing and maintaining the HIE. The CRISP HIE will allow you to access your patient’s medical history including lab results, radiology reports, discharge summaries, and other important information. CRISP enables secure clinical messaging and electronic referrals, eliminating time spent on administrative activities.

Over time, as care providers in Maryland join the CRISP HIE to share data, the benefits to patients and providers alike will be significant. Combined with the widespread adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) by hospitals and physicians, HIE is one of the two critical components to building a truly integrated, 21st-century health care delivery system.

What are the benefits of HIE to my practice?

- Help you make more informed treatment decisions, improving outcomes
- Improved care coordination among health care providers
- Achieve State and Federal program incentives
- Strict security safeguards to ensure patient health information is protected against unauthorized use
- The future vision of the HIE is to provide one-stop access to your patients’ health information

Information Available Through the HIE

- Lab Results
- Radiology Reports
- Discharge Summaries
- Consultation Notes
- History and Physical Notes
- Operative Notes
- Secure Clinical Messaging and Referrals

For more information about CRISP, please visit our Web site at www.crisphealth.org.

PROVIDER PATH FOR CRISP CONNECTIVITY

Paper Records

Hybrid Records

Electronic Records

Connect to State HIE

Future Vision: Outcome Improvement and Efficiencies
3 STEPS TO IMPROVED HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

STEP 1: Adopt Health Information Technology

Contact CRISP for assistance in choosing and implementing electronic health records within your practice

Why: Financial incentive programs are encouraging provider adoption of EHRs that will lead to safer, more effective care.

When: Incentives begin as early as 2011, followed by penalties in 2015.

How: Maryland offers a Regional Extension Center program to help physicians choose, implement, and support EHRs and achieve meaningful use.

STEP 2: Adapt to a new and more efficient way of delivering care

Connect to CRISP, Maryland’s Statewide Health Information Exchange

Why: CRISP works to electronically deliver patient health information at the right place and the right time for all providers in Maryland. HIE can help physicians to make more informed treatment decisions; improve outcomes and efficiency; and achieve Federal and State incentives.

When: Whether you have paper or electronic records, you can begin connecting to the HIE any time you are ready!

How: CRISP offers a portal to connect paper-based physicians to the HIE. Providers who are using EHRs should contact their EHR vendors to ask about CRISP connectivity, in addition to visiting our Web site for more information.

STEP 3: Advance the health of your patients

Achieve meaningful use, outcome improvements, and efficiencies by using Health Information Exchange

Why: The health care industry is changing quickly, and providers are expected to deliver better care with less resources. HIE will help achieve improved outcomes and lead to practice efficiencies.

When: CRISP is working to expand our HIE across the entire state of Maryland. The more providers who are connected, the more useful the HIE will be.

How: CRISP supports services such as electronic referrals and secure provider-to-provider messaging for all providers connected to the HIE. We also deliver a rich set of clinical information to help providers make more informed treatment decisions for their patients. Information initially available includes labs, radiology reports, and electronic document information.

Visit www.crisphealth.org today to take your practice to the next level in quality care!
Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients (CRISP) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the benefits of widespread, interoperable health information technology to patients and health care providers across Maryland. CRISP is advised by a wide range of stakeholders responsible for the health care of Maryland’s citizens. We receive input and advice from patients; hospital systems; physicians; insurance providers; technology providers; privacy advocates; public health officials; and advocates for seniors, the uninsured, and the medically underserved. Our mission, further supported by our statewide partners, reinforces our commitment to creating a healthier Maryland.

CRISP’s Regional Extension Center brings highly qualified and thoroughly vetted health care IT organizations, called Management Services Organizations (MSOs), into the Maryland marketplace to help providers adopt EHRs, achieve meaningful use, and realize their Medicare and Medicaid incentives.

Visit [www.crisphealth.org](http://www.crisphealth.org) or call [1-877-95-CRISP (27477)](tel:1-877-95-CRISP) today for help with choosing an MSO, getting connected to the HIE, and obtaining more information on meaningful use and incentives. GET STARTED TODAY!

For more information about CRISP programs:
- Health Information Exchange [HIE@crisphealth.org](mailto:HIE@crisphealth.org)
- Regional Extension Center [REC@crisphealth.org](mailto:REC@crisphealth.org)