

## A Secure Health Record

A crucial part of the system is protecting patient privacy. As health professionals in hospitals and doctors' offices learn to use the system, they will also learn how it protects your privacy. Each user will be authorized to see only the information needed to do his or her job.

For example, a clerk will be able to access only identifying information such as name, address, birth date, and health card number. A doctor, however, will be authorized to view the results of diagnostic tests and clinical notes from other hospital visits. This is vital to giving him or her all the information available to make the best possible decisions on your diagnosis and treatment.

Protections on the system are strong: password requirements, confidentiality agreements, audits of user access, firewalls, anti-virus software, and monitored and restricted access to computer servers.

## A Valuable Record

Each time a patient receives care, has a test, or meets with a doctor, information is added to the electronic health record. Over time, the information collected becomes more complete, improving diagnosis and treatment. Patients will have less stress, discomfort and inconvenience that can result from duplicate testing.



The health professionals within the system will be able to work more efficiently when they are able to access information such as test results more quickly.

Because they have a complete health history, they will have more confidence in their diagnostic and treatment decisions.

For the overall health system, SHARE will help manage wait times for patients and improve efficiency and cost effectiveness in the health system.

## Questions?

For more information on SHARE, Nova Scotia's EHR system, visit [novascotia.ca/dhw/SHARE](http://novascotia.ca/dhw/SHARE).

# Your electronic health record can tell them what you can not



[knowingisbetter.ca](http://knowingisbetter.ca)



Canada Health Inforoute  
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SHARE, Nova Scotia's electronic health record system, gives health care providers information about your health and care history.

Following a golf game in Lunenburg, Larry Fisher experiences severe chest pain and collapses in the clubhouse. When he arrives at the local emergency department, the doctor checks Larry's electronic health record, and sees that his family doctor in Windsor had recently sent him for blood tests and an EKG. The results of those tests, compared with the ones that she performs in the Emergency Department, allow the doctor to diagnose and treat Larry's heart attack with greater speed and effectiveness.

This story will soon be possible in Nova Scotia. The province has introduced an electronic health record (EHR) system which will evolve over time. Nova Scotians are already seeing benefits from greater use of information technology in health care, like faster diagnosis and treatment and greater efficiency.

An electronic health record brings together in one file health care information about each time a patient receives treatment. Nova Scotia's EHR system, known as SHARE (Secure Health Access Record), will bring together information from sources across the province and across the health system. It will give healthcare providers accurate, complete and up-to-date information on their patients.

### A Unique Health Record

SHARE will create a single electronic health record for each person in the province and others who receive care here. It will identify each patient through unique information such as name, address, birth date, and health card number.

### A Complete, Up-to-Date Health Record

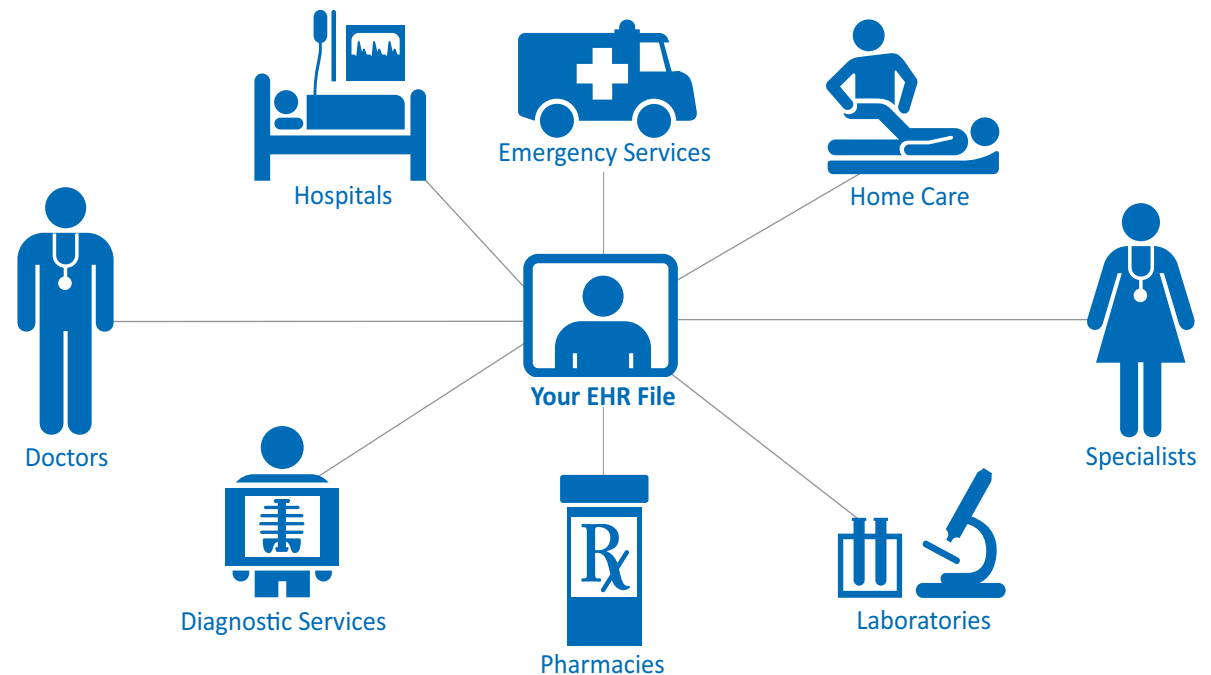
Initially, electronic health records will include information about admission, discharge and transfer from provincial hospital systems. It will also include orders and results for lab tests and diagnostic imaging, such as X-rays, MRIs or EKGs. Over time, information will be added from other parts of the health system, including pharmacies, public health services, primary health care, cancer care, and addiction services, giving a more complete history of each person's health care. Also when you update information like your address with one health care provider, your EHR will be updated.

### An Accessible Health Record

In Nova Scotia, like many other parts of Canada, hospitals, family doctors and specialists, pharmacies, laboratories and diagnostic imaging units, and public health units all keep patient records. Most of these records are now kept electronically, although many doctors still use paper files. SHARE will bring these records together into one electronic health record for every Nova Scotian that will be available to authorized healthcare providers throughout the province. This will allow them to make faster, more confident medical decisions.

Patients will have access to their records through their family doctor, or through the hospital where they received treatment. This is the same type of access patients have always had to their records.

### SHARE, An Evolution



Over time SHARE will expand to include your information from other parts of the health system.