



# BIG SKY CARE CONNECT

## *Who is Big Sky Care Connect?*

Formed in 2018, Big Sky Care Connect is a 501 c(3) nonprofit created to respond to the need for a state-wide coordinated health information exchange (HIE) and related services to enhance clinical care in communities throughout Montana.

Big Sky Care Connect serves to facilitate timely and secure access by health care providers to clinical information between various organizations, and engage in other activities to improve and promote the public health and quality of health care in Montana in a cost-effective manner.

Big Sky Care Connect is governed by a board of directors made up of physicians and health care executives from around the state. For more information about Big Sky Care Connect, email [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org) or contact Jean Branscum, Acting CAO BSCC at 406-443-4000.

## *What is a health information exchange?*

A HIE is an amazing system for improving your health care and saving you valuable time.

Here's how it works: Data feeds from healthcare providers across the state into a centralized system allowing any provider to display a full medical history for patients that includes data from all their various care team members.

The exchange allows doctors, nurses, and other care team members involved in a patient's care to appropriately access and securely share a patient's vital medical information electronically – **improving the speed, quality and safety and reducing the cost of patient care.**

## *Why is an HIE important for your health?*

Despite the widespread availability of secure electronic data transfer, most Americans' medical information from their different providers is not easily available electronically at any one point of service – creating an inefficient, time-consuming system. HIEs across the country are helping solve this problem and bring real value to provider practices and those they serve.

**The benefits of Big Sky Care Connect's HIE:**

- **Improving Health Care Quality:** Improving health care quality and patient outcomes by reducing medication and costly duplication
- **Making Care More Efficient:** Reducing unnecessary tests and services and improving efficiency of care by ensuring everyone involved in a patient's care has access to the same up-to-date information
- **Streamlining Administrative Tasks:** Reducing administrative costs by making many administrative tasks simpler and more efficient and eliminating duplication
- **Engaging Patients:** Increasing patient involvement in their own health care and reducing the amount of time patients spend filling out paperwork and briefing providers on their medical histories
- **Supporting Community Health:** Coordinating with and supporting public health officials to improve the health of your community