

CONSENT FORM
[NAME OF PROVIDER ORGANIZATION]

In this Consent Form, you can choose whether to allow [Name of Provider Organization] to obtain access to your medical records through computer networks operated by THINC and MedAllies, which are part of a statewide computer network, and by Surescripts, a provider of electronic prescribing services. These computer networks can help collect the medical records you have in different places where you get health care, and make them available electronically to our office.

You may use this Consent Form to decide whether or not to allow [Name of Provider Organization] to see and obtain access to your electronic health records in this way. You can give consent or deny consent, and this form may be filled out now or at a later date. **Your choice will not affect your ability to get medical care or health insurance coverage. Your choice to give or to deny consent may not be the basis for denial of health services.**

If you check the **"I GIVE CONSENT"** box below, you are saying "Yes, [Name of Provider Organization]'s staff involved in my care may see and get access to all of my medical records through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts."

If you check the **"I DENY CONSENT"** box below, you are saying "No, [Name of Provider Organization] may not be given access to my medical records through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts for any purpose."

This kind of sharing of medical records is called ehealth or health information technology (health IT). To learn more about ehealth in New York State, read the brochure, "Better Information Means Better Care." You can ask [Name of Provider] for it, or go to the website www.ehealth4ny.org. The three types of computer networks that [Name of Provider Organization] would access based upon this consent are:

- THINC, which is a not-for-profit organization that involves physician practices, community health centers, hospitals, laboratories and other health care organizations in the Hudson Valley. It shares information about people's health electronically and securely to improve the quality of health care services.
- Surescripts, which is a national provider of electronic prescribing services connecting physicians and hospitals with pharmacies.
- MedAllies, which is a provider of information technology services that hosts a service that enables hospitals to share patient information with physicians that care for their shared patients.

Please carefully read the information on the back of this form before making your decision.

Your Consent Choices. You can fill out this form now or in the future. You have two choices.

- I GIVE CONSENT for [Name of Provider Organization] to access ALL of my electronic health information** through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts in connection with providing me any health care services, including emergency care.
- I DENY CONSENT for [Name of Provider Organization] to access my electronic health information** through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts for any purpose, *even in a medical emergency*.

NOTE: UNLESS YOU CHECK THIS BOX, New York State law allows the people treating you in an emergency to get access to your medical records, including records that are available through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts.

Print Name of Patient

Patient Date of Birth

Signature of Patient or Patient's Legal Representative

Date

Print Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)

Relationship of Legal Representative to Patient (if applicable)

Details about patient information and the consent process:

1. **How Your Information Will be Used.** Your electronic health information will be used by [Name of Provider Organization] only to:

- Provide you with medical treatment and related services
- Check whether you have health insurance and what it covers
- Evaluate and improve the quality of medical care provided to all patients.

NOTE: The choice you make in this Consent Form does NOT allow health insurers to have access to your information for the purpose of deciding whether to give you health insurance or pay your bills. You can make that choice in a separate Consent Form that health insurers must use.

2. **What Types of Information about You Are Included.** If you give consent, [Name of Provider Organization] may access ALL of your electronic health information available through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts. This includes information created before and after the date of this Consent Form. Your health records may include a history of illnesses or injuries you have had (like diabetes or a broken bone), test results (like X-rays or blood tests), and lists of medicines you have taken. This information may relate to sensitive health conditions, including but not limited to:

- Alcohol or drug use problems
- Birth control and abortion (family planning)
- Genetic (inherited) diseases or tests
- HIV/AIDS
- Mental health conditions
- Sexually transmitted diseases

3. **Where Health Information About You Comes From.** Information about you comes from places that have provided you with medical care or health insurance (“Information Sources”). These may include hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, clinical laboratories, health insurers, the Medicaid program, and other ehealth organizations that exchange health information electronically. A complete list of current Information Sources is available from THINC. You can obtain an updated list of Information Sources at any time by checking the THINC website at www.thinc.org or by calling 845-896-4726.

4. **Who May Access Information About You, If You Give Consent.** Only these people may access information about you: doctors and other health care providers who serve on [Name of Provider Organization]’s medical staff who are involved in your medical care; health care providers who are covering or on call for [Name of Provider Organization]’s doctors; and staff members who carry out activities permitted by this Consent Form as described above in paragraph one.

5. **Penalties for Improper Access to or Use of Your Information.** There are penalties for inappropriate access to or use of your electronic health information. If at any time you suspect that someone who should not have seen or gotten access to information about you has done so, call [Name of Provider Organization] at: _____; or visit THINC’s website: www.thinc.org; or call the NYS Department of Health at 877-690-2211.

6. **Re-disclosure of Information.** Any electronic health information about you may be re-disclosed by [Name of Provider Organization] to others only to the extent permitted by state and federal laws and regulations. This is also true for health information about you that exists in a paper form. Some state and federal laws provide special protections for some kinds of sensitive health information, including HIV/AIDS and drug and alcohol treatment. Their special requirements must be followed whenever people receive these kinds of sensitive health information. Persons who access this information through THINC, MedAllies and Surescripts must comply with these requirements.

7. **Effective Period.** This Consent Form will remain in effect until the day you withdraw your consent.

8. **Withdrawing Your Consent.** You can withdraw your consent at any time by signing a Withdrawal of Consent Form and giving it to [*Provider Organization*]. You can also change your consent choices by signing a new Consent Form at any time. You can get these forms on THINC’s website at www.thinc.org, or by calling 845-896-4726. **Note: Organizations that access your health information while your consent is in effect may copy or include your information in their own medical records. Even if you later decide to withdraw your consent, they are not required to return it or remove it from their records.**

9. **Copy of Form.** You are entitled to get a copy of this Consent Form after you sign it.