

## ABOUT YOUR PRIVACY

Many people are worried about privacy and security when it comes to EHR. Information can never be completely secure.

This is true whether it's on paper or in a computer. But West River Health Services is doing everything it can to make EHR private and secure:

- Federal and state laws strictly protect the privacy and confidentiality of health information about you.
- Only the people (such as doctors, nurses, and their staff) who are involved in your healthcare are allowed to access your health records using EHR.
- Safeguards like passwords and other protections keep your record from being accessed without proper permission.
- You can request a list of everyone who has accessed your records using EHR.
- If improper access does occur, a risk assessment will be completed. West River Health Services will make sure steps are taken to correct the problem so it won't happen again.

**Q: Can I get access to my own medical records through EHR?**

**A:** By law you already have the right to get a copy of your medical records from the healthcare organizations that made them. Some doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare organizations can give you access to your medical records online or on a computer, not just on paper – but not all of them have that capability today. North Dakota is working to make it possible for everyone to get access to their medical records through EHR networks.

In addition, many public and private organizations are developing electronic health record tools that you may be able to use to keep and share your health information on a computer.

**Q: Where can I get more information about EHR?**

**A:** [www.wrhs.com](http://www.wrhs.com)

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[www.wrhs.com](http://www.wrhs.com)

We're right where you need us.

# Better Information means Better Care

A guide to Electronic Health Record (EHR)



**Q: What is an Electronic Health Record (EHR)?**

**A:** EHR is the use of a computer network, instead of paper, to store and manage your medical records. It is also sometimes called “health information technology.” EHR can make information about your health available electronically to doctors and other care providers you choose, which can help you get better care.

In the coming months, patients at West River Health Services will notice a significant change in technology throughout our clinic system. The organization is in the process of converting to an Electronic Health Record (EHR), for the scheduling, billing, and medical record departments.

One of the most welcome features of the new system will be e-prescribing, the process of writing and submitting medication prescriptions electronically. E-prescribing provides significant advantages to patients, caregivers, pharmacies and pharmacists.

**Q: What can EHR do for me?**

**A:** EHR can help pave the way for safer, more convenient health care.

Medical records are reports about your illnesses, injuries, medicines and/or test results. If you’ve changed doctors, seen a specialist, visited a clinic, or checked into a hospital, your records are likely on paper and in different places. This makes it hard to get a complete picture of your health. EHR can help solve that problem for patients.



Photo by Liz Seamands

**Here’s how EHR can help you:**

- When your records are easily available in one place on a computer, your doctors can get a more complete picture of your health, which helps them to make good decisions about your care.
- Your information is safe in a system that can only be used by the people who are caring for you, and only with your consent.
- Information that could save your life in a medical emergency is easy to get to in a hurry.
- You can skip wasteful and sometimes risky duplicate medical tests.
- You won’t always have to fill out the same forms every time you visit a doctor, clinic, or a hospital.
- Backups of your records are made so they will still be available in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.
- You can better manage health records for yourself and your family.



Photo by Liz Seamands