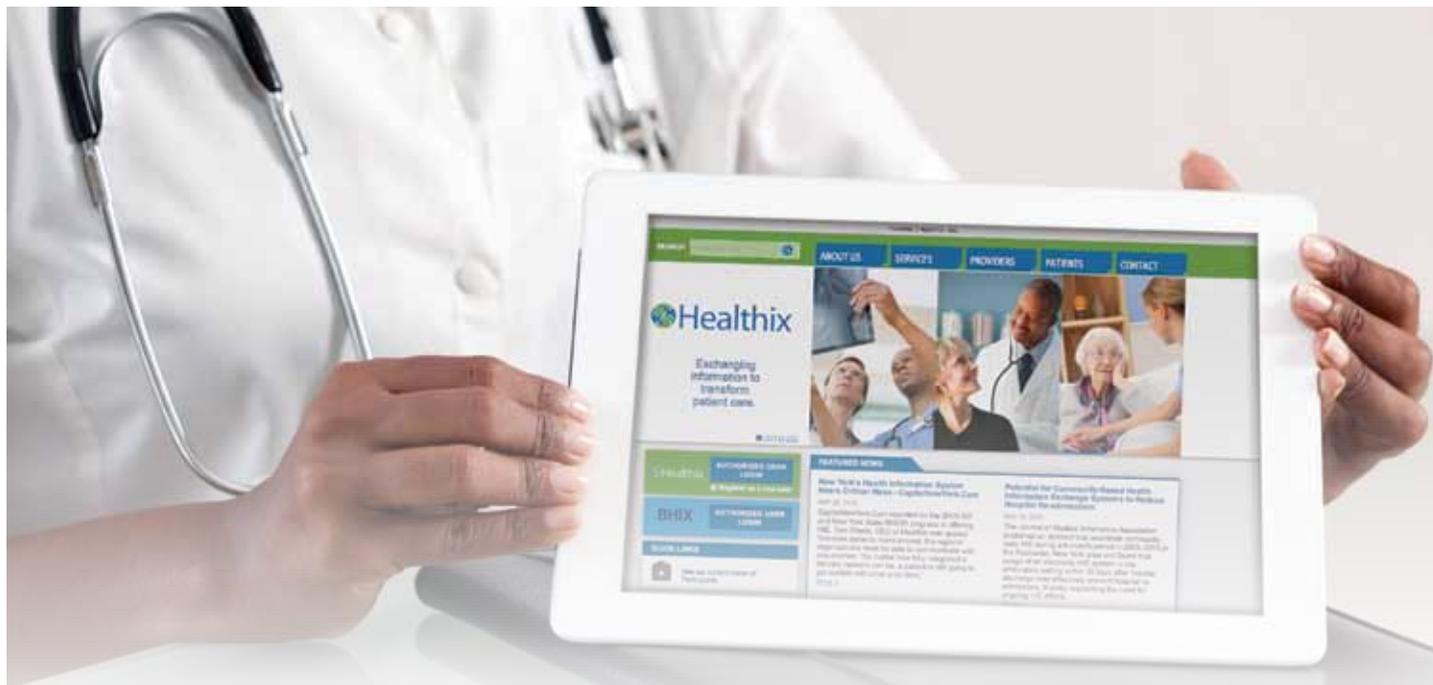


# Make Sure *All* Your Healthcare Providers Can Access Your Medical Records

**Consenting to have your medical information shared among healthcare providers can save your life.**



Your Benefit Fund has partnered with Healthix, the downstate New York Regional Health Information Exchange organization, along with hundreds of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, home care agencies and other healthcare providers to share consenting members' health information. By allowing doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals to share and retrieve up-to-date information, the health exchange can help improve the quality, safety and efficiency of your care—but it's important for you to know that you must give each healthcare provider you visit express written permission to allow him or her to share your information with all those involved in your care.

By giving your consent, you're allowing your doctor to share your information with others involved in managing and coordinating your care—such as specialists, therapists, nurses, even emergency room providers—giving them the most current information available in order to make the best treatment decisions. Healthcare providers can see what blood tests or X-rays you may have had, what, if any, allergies you have and what medication you have been prescribed. It also means you won't have to repeat certain tests, since the most current results are available through Healthix. This can be

especially critical in emergency situations when you may not be able to communicate.

**More than two million patients across New York City and Long Island have given their consent to allow their medical records to be shared among participating healthcare providers.** Healthix and its participating providers comply with all New York State and federal privacy and confidentiality laws. Your information is kept secure, and only those healthcare providers that you choose to give your consent to and who are involved in your care will be able to access your information.

So, at your next doctor's visit, ask if she or he participates in the Healthix health information exchange. If so, we encourage you to sign the consent form—it could just save your life.

To learn more about Healthix and to download the Healthix Patient Consent Form, please visit [www.Healthix.org](http://www.Healthix.org) or email [Info@Healthix.org](mailto:Info@Healthix.org). Of course, you can also call our Member Services Department at (646) 473-9200, and a representative will be happy to help you.