



## VITL VHIE Informational Guide

### Your Health Information Shared Responsibly

Having your providers on the same page means better care for you. That's why Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) make sure your care team in Vermont can see your important health information at the right time, and it's kept safe.

VITL keeps your health records in one secure place called the Vermont Health Information Exchange. This includes information that's vital to keeping you healthy, such as allergies, medications, and medical history.

When doctors and other providers use VITL, they have the up-to-date information they need to give you and your loved ones the best care. Vermonters' information from participating hospitals, practices, labs, and pharmacies is included, which helps keep Vermont one of the healthiest states in the country.

*At United Counseling Service, Inc. (UCS), your health information isn't shared unless you give us permission to do so. At this time, your health information will not be widely shared as described here. Consenting to share your health information means that only Vermont Agency for Human Services (AHS) will have access to data about the people we serve.*

### Talk to VITL Staff

We're here to help. We can talk about how health data sharing works, send you your record or information about who has viewed your data, or help you opt-out of letting your health care providers see your health records. Call [1-888-980-1243](tel:1-888-980-1243) or go to [www.vitl.net/for-vermonters](http://www.vitl.net/for-vermonters).

### About Health Data Sharing

VITL provides a secure network that gives health care providers in Vermont the ability to share patient health data with each other.

All of Vermont's hospitals, most health centers, and many doctor's offices, pharmacies, labs, and ambulance services across the state partner with VITL. Some send data, some use data, and some do both.

### What does that mean for me?

At VITL, we know that most Vermonters get care in more than one place. You might see a primary care provider close to home, visit a nearby pharmacy for a flu shot, and travel a few towns over to see a specialist. VITL helps all of them stay connected. And VITL is there in emergencies too. If you're camping or visiting family on the other side of the state and need to go to the Emergency Department, your record is there. If you move, your record is there. It's the story of your health, told by your whole care team.



## VITL VHIE Informational Guide

At this time, the health information in your record from UCS is not going to be shared in the VHIE. Instead, your health information will be stored in a separate repository that today, is not accessible to other healthcare providers. This will change in the future.

There are two kinds of data sets that are sent by UCS to VITL to be stored in the separate repository:

- **ADT Data.**

Admission, Discharge, and Transfer data is information about your admission to and discharge from the agency, among other information. This information is shared with the Vermont Agency for Human Services.

- **CCD Data.**

Continuity of Care Documents is a system generated document that includes information such as your medications, allergies, vital signs, treatment plans, diagnosis, and other health-related information. UCS is required to obtain consent from you to send this information to the repository. In the future, this will be stored and made available to other healthcare providers in the VHIE.

UCS updates VITL with clients that have consented or not consented to sharing their information. If you have consented, your data goes to VHIE (in the future) where other providers can access your information. If you do not consent, CCD data is not sent to VITL and your ADT data does not go further than the separate VITL repository.

### **Who can see my health record?**

VITL is a nonprofit health information exchange. That means we help health records get to all authorized professionals who need them to help Vermonters stay healthy and well. The providers and staff at hospitals, practices, and other organizations where you get care can use this information. Your health records can also be used by your insurance provider and by the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) as part of the Medicaid program, and other state and federal funding programs for health care services. You can learn more about who is allowed to use VITL in the frequently asked questions page on the VITL website at <https://vitl.net/for-vermonters/faqs/>

### **What's in my record?**

Your patient record has basic information, like your name, age, and birthdate. It also includes medications, allergies, x-ray and other imaging reports, and lab results. Information about office and hospital visits, procedures, and care plans is also indicated. You can review your VITL record by completing a records request.

### **What can I do?**

You can keep sharing, decide to stop your health records in VITL from being viewed (opting-out), or start sharing again (opting-back-in). You can also request a copy of your records or a report about who has seen your information.

## **References**

*Your health information, shared responsibly.* VITL. (2024, March 26). <https://vitl.net/for-vermonters/>