

## Educational Materials – details about sharing your data

### The CMS ONC Interoperability Rule

To give current Keystone HMO CHIP members better access to their health care data, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) have partnered to help improve health care data sharing.

The goal is to simplify the experience and your or your child's access to health care data. As a result, the CMS ONC Interoperability and Patient Access Rule (Rule) was created. This Rule sets up the framework to help third-party software developers build applications (apps) or websites that can connect with health plans to share data.

The Rule requires that Independence Blue Cross (Independence) provides active members with access to their personal health information through what is known as a "Patient Access Application Programming Interface (API)." Keystone HMO CHIP members over the age of 18 or a parent/guardian can share personal health information with a third-party app or website of their choice.

You can access this data sharing by downloading a third-party app on your smartphone, tablet, computer, or another smart device. When available, you can also access this data sharing by using a third-party company's website on your smartphone, tablet, computer, or another smart device.

### Sharing personal health information

The personal health information made available through the Patient Access API includes information collected by Independence during your or your child's enrollment with any Independence plan or customer since January 1, 2016.

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The personal health information available through the Patient Access API includes:

- **Claims and encounter data:** Data from interactions with health care providers in the office or other settings that are submitted for reimbursement to Independence;
- **Prescription drug data:** Data regarding any prescription drugs that you or your child have been prescribed and/or have filled using your or your child's Independence health care benefits; and
- **Clinical data:** Data collected by Independence in the process of providing case management, care coordination, laboratory visits, and/or other services.

**IMPORTANT:** The third-party app or website you select will have access to **all** your or your child's personal health information. This includes **sensitive health information** about treatments, such as substance use disorders, mental health treatment, HIV status, and more. For minors ages 14 through 17, the information shared will not include sensitive health information subject to more protective Pennsylvania state law. A current valid *Authorization to Disclose Health Information* form from the minor child is required for Independence to share any sensitive health information for minors ages 14 through 17. For more information about the *Authorization to Disclose Health Information* form, [click here](#).

### Things to consider when choosing a third-party app or website

The third-party app or website is **not** subject to HIPAA or other privacy laws, which generally protect personal health information.

The third-party app or website should have its own privacy policy that should provide self-imposed limitations on how the third-party app or website will use, maintain, disclose, and (possibly) sell information about you or your child.

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Before you decide to access your or your child's personal health information through the Patient Access API, you should carefully review the privacy policy of the third-party app or website you are considering. Make sure you are knowledgeable and comfortable with how the third-party app or website will use, maintain, and/or further disclose your or your child's information. If the third-party app or website privacy policy does not address your concerns or is not available, you may consider using a different third-party app or website.

What you need to know about a third-party app or website:

- Will this third-party app or website *sell* my or my child's data for any reason?
- Will this third-party app or website *disclose* my or my child's data to third parties for purposes such as research, data analytics, or advertising?
- How will this third-party app or website *use* my or my child's data? For what purposes?
- Will the third-party app or website allow me to limit how it uses, maintains, discloses, or sells my or my child's data?
- If I no longer want to use this third-party app or website, or if I no longer want this third-party app or website to have access to my or my child's personal health information, can I terminate the third-party app's or website's access to my or my child's data? If so, how difficult will it be to terminate access?
- What is the third-party app's or website's policy for *deleting* my or my child's data once I terminate access? Do I have to do more than just delete the third-party app or website from my device?
- How will this third-party app or website inform me of changes in its privacy policy or practices?
- Will the third-party app or website collect non-health data from my device, such as my location or any other personal information?
- What security measures does this third-party app or website use to protect my or my child's data?
- What impact could sharing my or my child's data with this third-party app or website have on others, such as my family members?
- Will the third-party app or website permit me to access my or my child's data and correct inaccuracies? (Correcting inaccuracies in data collected by the third-party app or website will not affect inaccuracies in the data source.)
- Does the third-party app or website have a process for collecting and responding to user complaints?

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If the third-party app's or website's privacy policy does not answer these questions for you, you may reconsider using the third-party app or website to access your or your child's personal health information. You should choose a third-party app or website with strong privacy and security standards.

### Data sharing details

The third-party app or website authorization is voluntary, and data sharing will remain in effect **for one (1) year from the date of this completed authorization or until such time as your child reaches the age of 18 years old. The *Authorization to Disclose Health Information (sensitive health information)* is valid for the time period referenced in the authorization or until the child reaches the age of 18.** Please know that Independence will not impact payment for health care, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility for benefits based on you providing authorization.

You may revoke this authorization at any time by contacting our Keystone HMO CHIP Member Help Team at the number on the back of your or your child's member ID card or when you log in at **ibx.com**. Revoking this authorization will **not** affect any disclosure Independence already made to the third-party app or website you selected and previously authorized prior to your revoking access. You should contact the third-party app or website regarding any request to delete your or your child's personal health information from the app or website. This will depend on the third-party app's or website's privacy policy.



[ibx.com/CHIP](https://ibx.com/CHIP)

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Independence Blue Cross complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-275-2583 (TTY/TDD: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-275-2583 (TTY/TDD: 711)。