

Instructions: This document should be given to children who are less than 18 years of age and who are eligible to enroll in a Health Home, and to their parents, guardians or legally authorized representatives. This document should be reviewed with them prior to completion of *Health Home Consent/Enrollment/For Use with Children Under 18 Years of Age* form (DOH 5200) and *Health Home Consent/Information Sharing/For Use with Children Under 18 Years of Age* form (DOH 5201). However, children who are parents, pregnant, and/or married, and who otherwise are capable of consenting, should not be given this document. They should be given the *Health Home Patient Information Sharing Consent* form (DOH 5055) to review and complete.

1. What is the Health Home Program?

The goal of the Health Home program is to make sure you get the care and services you need to be healthy. Maybe it's been hard for you to find the right doctor. Or, maybe you have been in the hospital or emergency room recently. The **Health Home** program has people who can help. These people are called "care managers". As a member of the Health Home program, you will have your own care manager.

Your care manager makes sure you have the services you need such as:

- appointments with healthcare providers (such as doctors, nurses, nutritionists, counselors, mental health providers, substance abuse providers, developmental disabilities providers),
- medications,
- a safe place to live,
- insurance to pay for your care and services, and/or
- transportation to your appointments.

Your care manager works with you to set up a care plan. A care plan lists your needs, your goals for each need, and what providers and services you need to reach your goals. The people and services involved in your care plan become your Health Home "team". To get everything you need, your team must talk to each other and share your health information.

Your care manager is there to help and answer your questions.

2. How do I qualify for a Health Home?

To be in a Health Home, you must:

- have one single qualifying condition or two or more chronic conditions,
- need a Care Manager to help you get your care and services, and
- have Medicaid.

3. What are the advantages of being in a Health Home?

- You have one care manager who is coordinating your care and services
- Your care manager can help you understand how to manage your healthcare and social needs
- You have a team of providers available to you for questions you may have
- Your care manager will make sure that your providers are talking to each other to help you stay healthy

4. How do I enroll in a Health Home?

Your parent, guardian, or legally authorized representative enrolls you in a Health Home by signing *Health Home Consent/Enrollment/For Use with Children Under 18 Years of Age* form (DOH 5200).

For the purpose of enrollment, a legally authorized representative is a person or agency authorized by state, tribal, military or other applicable law, court order or consent to act on your behalf in making health care decisions.

5. Once you are enrolled in a Health Home, the Health Home and your providers will need to share your health information. What is "health information"?

Your health information includes general information about your health. It may include information regarding illnesses or injuries you have had, medical records, such as x-rays or tests results, or a list of prescription drugs you have taken. Your health information may relate to treatment for sensitive health conditions, including, but not limited to: Sexually Transmitted Infection (including HIV) Testing and Treatment; HIV Prevention (Pre-exposure and Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP)); Mental Health Conditions; Developmental Disabilities; or Alcohol or Substance Abuse treatment.

6. What do we mean by “sharing” your health information?

People who are able to share your health information can:

- get,
- see,
- read,
- discuss, and/or
- copy your health information as allowed by law.

7. Why do the Health Home and providers need your health information?

Remember, it is important for all the people in your Health Home team to be able to talk to each other. This means they will need to share your health information. Your health information will be used to:

- Help you get care,
- Help you manage your care, and
- Make sure your health insurance is working and see what it pays for.

Health plans (insurance companies) cannot use this health information to decide if they will give you health insurance. They cannot use this information to decide to pay your medical bills. Health plans have their own forms to get this information.

8. Where will my health information come from?

Your health information comes from places and people that gave, or currently give, you health care or health insurance. These may include hospitals, doctors, pharmacies, laboratories, health plans (insurance companies), the Medicaid program, dentists, and other groups that share information.

9. Who can share my health information?

Your parent, guardian, or legally authorized representative will decide who shares your health information by completing *Health Home Consent/Information Sharing/For Use with Children Under 18 Years of Age* form (DOH 5201), section 1. For the purpose of sharing health information, a legally authorized representative is a person or agency authorized by state, tribal, military or other applicable law, court order or consent to act on behalf of a person for the release of medical information. If a local commissioner of social services is the person who consents to your health care, then he or she is also the person that will consent to share your health information.

In some situations, the law lets you decide who can share your health information. Here are some situations where you have control over your health information and who gets to share it, by completing *Health Home Consent/Information Sharing/For Use with Children Under 18 Years of Age* form (DOH 5201), section 2:

- Family planning
- Emergency contraception
- Abortion
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (including HIV) Testing and Treatment
- HIV Prevention Pre-exposure and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP)
- Prenatal Care, Labor/Delivery
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Sexual Assault Services

Only if you are over the age of twelve, your clinician **may** ask you before releasing information about your mental health and/or developmental disabilities services.

New York State also has access to your health information because it pays for your Medicaid services. New York State may use your health information to learn more about the Health Home program to make changes and improve it.

10. What laws and rules cover how my health information can be shared?

There are several federal and state laws. These laws include New York Mental Hygiene Law Section 33.13 and 33.16, New York Public Health Law Article 27-F, and federal confidentiality rules, including 42 CFR Part 2 and 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (which are the rules referred to as the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)). The Health Home and providers that share the child’s health information must obey these laws and rules.

