

ACCEL FACT SHEET

What is ACCEL?

ACCEL (Access El Dorado), is a health care program that allows community health services to work together for the improved delivery of care in El Dorado County. One of ACCEL's objectives is to use information technology to improve health care by allowing providers to share health information that will help them provide the best care possible to their patients. Providers are doctors, nurses, therapists, healthcare workers, hospitals, and clinics.

Which organizations in ACCEL share information?

The following organizations now participate in ACCEL:

- Barton HealthCare System
- Barton Community Clinic
- El Dorado County Community Health Ctr.
- El Dorado County Mental Health Dept.
- El Dorado County Public Health Dept.
- Shingle Springs Tribal Health Clinic
- Barton Memorial Hospital
- Tahoe Family Physicians
- Marshall Medical Center
- Marshall Physician Care Services
- Divide Wellness Center

Why is health information shared?

Health care providers can make better decisions about a patient's care and treatment when they have as much information as possible. ACCEL permits providers to review health information in a system that is faster, more secure and more efficient than the system that is currently used. ACCEL only shares information about a patient's medical condition with health care providers currently involved in the patient's care.

Is shared health information kept private and confidential?

Yes. ACCEL obeys all applicable federal and state laws about privacy of medical information. ACCEL will not share health information with anyone not involved in the care of a patient or related to operations of ACCEL. Every organization and provider that shares or uses information from ACCEL must obey strict rules for security and privacy.

What are your rights?

As a patient, you have the right **not** to share your health information among providers in ACCEL. This is called "*opting out*". However, if you choose not to participate, health care providers may not have access to health information that may be important and useful in making choices about your medical care. If you choose to opt out, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer of your health provider.

If you have questions regarding your privacy rights, please refer to the Notice of Privacy Practices provided to you by your health care provider. If you need another copy of that notice, please ask your provider to give you one. This Fact Sheet is intended for educational purposes only. Operations of ACCEL and the content of this Fact Sheet may be changed by ACCEL from time to time without notice.

Who do I contact for more information?

Every organization in ACCEL has a person who is responsible for privacy practices. When you have a question, ask for the Privacy Officer. He or she will be able to answer your questions or find someone who can help you.