

## Interoperability Pledge

### Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) Pledge

The Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) is a nonprofit national consortium and trade association of statewide, regional and community health information exchanges (HIEs) whose member organizations serve as neutral, unbiased data trustees in their markets, dedicated to facilitating secure health information exchange among their participants. SHIEC member HIEs enable disparate health care organizations to exchange patient health information across health care communities, making interoperability not only a pledge but a common practice.

*Three interoperability commitments:*

1. *Consumer access: To help consumers easily and securely access their electronic health information, direct it to any desired location, learn how their information can be shared and used, and be assured that this information will be effectively and safely used to benefit their health and that of their community.*

SHIEC member organizations improve consumer access to more comprehensive patient records by aggregating patient information from disparate health care organizations in the patient's home HIE. Through their physicians and health care providers who participate in the community or regional HIE, patients have access to more comprehensive records from one neutral, trusted community source.

2. *No Blocking/Transparency: To help providers share individuals' health information for care with other providers and their patients whenever permitted by law, and not block electronic health information (defined as knowingly and unreasonably interfering with information sharing).*

SHIEC member organizations are dedicated to bridging gaps in patient information and promoting the transparent flow of patient information across the community. These community and regional organizations are unbiased data trustees that allow to share patient health information from disparate health systems and facilities. This dedication to the secure sharing of patient information eliminates information blocking and builds more comprehensive patient records in the communities where patients reside.

3. *Standards: Implement federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information, and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.*

SHIEC member organizations implement and promote the standards, policies and practices to enable the secure sharing of patient health information across the community while safeguarding patient rights according to applicable state and federal law. This utilization and promotion of federally recognized, national interoperability standards allows SHIEC member organizations to share patient information among disparate organizations and enable more comprehensive patient records.