

# North Carolina Health Information Exchange (NCHIE) Option

## for EZBIS Electronic Health Records

### About the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA)

The North Carolina General Assembly created the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) to oversee and administer the state-designated HIE (NCGS § 90-414.7). NC HIEA receives input and advice from its Advisory Board, which consists of patients, hospital personnel, physicians, technology experts, public health officials and other key stakeholders to continuously improve the HIE network, now called NC HealthConnex, and to move towards more efficient and effective care.

### About North Carolina HealthConnex

NC HealthConnex is a secure electronic network that facilitates conversations between health care providers, allowing them to access and share health-related information across the state.

Created by the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGS § 90-414.1 et seq.), NC HealthConnex is the state-designated health information exchange. It is managed by the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA), housed within the N.C. Department of Information Technology.

### Who is Required to Connect to NC HealthConnex?

All health care providers who receive state funds (e.g., Medicaid, NC Health Choice, State Health Plan, etc.) for the provision of health care services must connect to NC HealthConnex by **January 1, 2023** to continue to receive payments for services provided (NCGS § 90-414.4).

**Additionally, all providers who are in-network with Health Network Solutions (HNS) must connect to NC HealthConnex by January 1, 2023 in order to remain in-network with HNS.**

Providers who do not receive state funding for the provision of health care services may also connect to the NC HIEA on a voluntary basis to support whole-person care.

### Participation Agreements

Each new facility is required to sign a Participation Agreement governing its connection to NC HealthConnex. At this time and for the foreseeable future, the N.C. Health Information Exchange Authority (HealthConnex) does not charge a fee to connect to the health exchange. There are two options for participation:

The **Full Participation Agreement**, now aligned with federal standards – the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement or DURSA--will allow providers full use of the NC HealthConnex current and future value-added features as well

as provide for the State’s requirement for the submission of clinical and demographic data.

The Submission Only Participation Agreement, will enable a provider to submit the clinical and demographic data required by law in a one-way technical connection in order to be in compliance. However, this agreement will prohibit all other data exchange services including HIE query/data exchange and clinical registries. Signing a submission-only participation agreement limits the exchange of patient health information to those patients with state-funded plans only. **It is not permissible to submit patient health information for patients other than those with state-funded health plans.**

The participation agreements can be downloaded by visiting the following web page:

<https://hiea.nc.gov/providers/how-connect>

### How Does the Exchange of Health Information Work?

Once a participation agreement has been submitted to NC HIEA and the NCHIE Option has been added to your EZBIS software, the process of sending patient health information is performed automatically, simply by adding patient visits in the Electronic Health Records module of the EZBIS software. Three business days after a visit is added, the health information is sent to the HealthConnex health exchange. The three-day delay is intentional, to provide doctors with sufficient time to complete the documentation for an office visit. **Visits must be added using the EHR module, otherwise the health information is not submitted.**

### Pricing and Requirements

- Requires EZ BISOffice version 12.0 or higher
- Requires the EZBIS EHR Module
- Requires the additional NCHIE Option
- Must purchase and retain an annual service agreement
- Requires an internet connection

### North Carolina Health Information Exchange Pricing

(add-on for EZBIS Office with the EHR module)

NCHIE Option Annual Fee*	\$200.00
NCHIE Setup Fee	99.00

\* The annual fee is charged upon renewal of the annual service agreement (required). If the NCHIE Option is added during the term of an existing annual service agreement, a pro-rated annual fee is charged for the remainder of the term of the existing service agreement.

To get started, call:

**(800) 445-7816, ext 217**  
**www.ezbis.com**

