

Connie, Connecticut's Statewide HIE

A health information exchange, or HIE, is a safe electronic way for health care providers and organizations to share clinical information about their patients. By state statute, Connie was authorized to be an independent, not-for-profit, neutral, and trusted organization to develop and operate the statewide HIE in Connecticut (CGS 17b-59d and 17b-59g). Connie enables providers and physicians to:

- Better share clinical information across all healthcare settings.
- Support care coordination.
- Reduce preventable costs associated with readmissions and duplicative testing.
- Support public health reporting, research, and population health analytics.
- Adhere to and promote standards and interoperability.
- Provide patient access to their own health information.

Connie is a growing network comprised of hundreds of healthcare providers. As Connecticut's official HIE, Connie is working to connect all of Connecticut's providers, including hospitals, EMRs, pharmacies, payors, health departments, and health centers.

Participation Requirements

State statute requires hospitals and labs to connect to Connie within one year, and all other healthcare providers have two years from Connie's date of being operational. According to the statute, upon the HIE being deemed operational, specific requirements for connecting go into effect for hospitals licensed under chapter 368v, clinical laboratories licensed under section 19a-30, and health care providers defined as any individual, corporation, facility or institution licensed by the state to provide health care services (CGS 17b-59e).

The Office of Health Strategy (OHS) has announced that Connie is operational as of May 3, 2021.

What it means to “connect” and “participate”

To meet the state's mandate, an organization is connected when its clinical and demographic information is being sent to Connie.

What are the deadlines for meeting this mandate?

- Hospitals and Clinical laboratories are required to connect to the HIE within one year of operations (May 3, 2022).
- Healthcare Providers are required to connect within two years of operations (May 3, 2023).

How to Connect

Filling out this form initiates the process of connecting to Connie.

The process includes the following steps, with anticipated time frames:

1. **Return this form to Connie** through your Connie account manager, or info@connect.org to have an account manager assigned to your organization.
2. **Legal On-boarding:** identify, negotiate, and sign the appropriate legal agreements which Connie will provide to organizations within ten days of submitting the signed Commitment to Connect form. (1 month)
3. **Technical On-boarding:** work with Connie's technical team to create the technical connection needed to facilitate data exchange. (2 months)
4. **Access data:** determine data viewing preference, establish integration (where needed), provide training to end users (when needed). (2 months)

Please download and complete this form if your organization is ready to initiate the process of connecting to Connie.

Commitment to Connecting to Connie Form (Please Print Clearly) *

By filling out this form, you are expressing your organization's commitment to initiating the steps outlined above, following the anticipated time frames in good faith. Organizations should note that they may risk being out of compliance with the statute if:

- They have not submitted this form at least 70 days prior to their mandated connection deadline.
- They have not completed technical on-boarding (step 3 above) by May 3, 2022 for hospitals and clinical laboratories and by May 3, 2023 for all other healthcare providers.

Official Business Name: _____

Affiliations (e.g., hospital, ACO, clinically integrated network, Independent Physician associations):

Organization NPI: _____

Main Office Address: _____

Business Website: _____

First and last name of person responsible for signing agreements: _____

Email address: _____

Please send me a copy of the legal agreements associated with connecting to Connie.

I would like a meeting invitation to the next Connie Overview and How to Connect Zoom meeting on the last Wednesday of the month at noon.

Please provide contact information for the person to be included on the Connie Overview and How to Connect Zoom meeting:

Name: _____

Email: _____