

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AGENCY DIVISIONS

Administration & Finance
Behavioral Health
Community Services
Protective Services
Public Health
Self-Sufficiency

Member Education and Resources: Patient Access Application Programming Interface (API)

The Interoperability and Patient Access Rule gives you the right to see your own health data on a third-party health application (App) you use on your mobile phone or computer. We will call this “your App.” El Dorado County HHS Behavioral Health Plan (BHP) uses the Netsmart Technologies, Inc. (also referred to as “Netsmart”) application called “**myHealthPointe**” to provide your chosen Apps access to your health data. This is done through a Patient Access API, which stands for “Application Programming Interface.”

What is an API?

A simple way for two pieces of software to communicate with one another to get data. An example is when you send a message using a cell phone. Here, an API allows myHealthPointe to communicate with your App.

What is health data?

In El Dorado County HHS BHP, health data is information about your behavioral health services history. It includes your name, your address, and your birthday. It also can include information about medical tests you have had, any medical conditions you might have had, and more.

How is my data available?

El Dorado County HHS BHP makes your data available through **myHealthPointe**, which will allow El Dorado County HHS BHP to share your health data with your App.

El Dorado County HHS BHP it is a separate entity from your App and has no connections to your App’s business operations, or ability to manage, control, or otherwise manipulate data held by your App. Because of this, El Dorado County HHS BHP has no liability or responsibility for data held within your App and any data provided to or within your App is subject to the terms and conditions of that application. El Dorado County HHS BHP may not be named liable for any business operations (including data sharing) resulting from usage of your App and usage of your App shall be at your own risk and discretion and are your sole responsibility. Please refer to Netsmart’s Terms of Use and Privacy Notice for more detailed information about your data and **myHealthPointe**.

What to think about before sharing your health data?

Before you agree to share your health data, you need to think about some things. Will your App sell your data? Will your App use your data for research or advertising? How will this App use your data? Will your App let you control how it can use your data? If you stop using your

App, will your data be removed? If you no longer want to use your App, can you take away the App's access to your data?

Is sharing information online safe?

When making decisions about your health, you should only share your health data with people you trust, like your family or doctor. Never share your username or password. Store your paper records in a safe place.

Only use software you trust and always use a password on your phone, tablet, and computer. Do not send any data by email unless you can protect it with a password.

For more information regarding online security refer to: [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) Online Security](#)

Does your App fall under HIPAA?

HIPAA is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. This is a federal law that says your health information cannot be shared unless it is for health care treatment, payment or operations and other reasons allowed by the federal law.

Apps are not covered by HIPAA. Your App will have access to all your health data once you allow it. You should read the Netsmart privacy policy to see how the third-party health App may use your data. Make sure that you are comfortable with their rules. An App that publishes a privacy notice must do what it says in that notice. Apps may not be subject to other State and local privacy laws.

Apps are subject to other Privacy laws. For example, the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC) protects you against any App that breaks privacy rules. If an App breaks a privacy rule, the App will get in trouble.

For more information from the FTC, click on this link: [How Websites and Apps Collect and Use Your Information](#)

What are your rights under HIPAA?

If you want to learn more about your rights under HIPAA, visit this website: [Your Rights Under HIPAA](#)

How do you authorize EI Dorado County HHSA BHP to share data with your App?

If you decide you want to use an App, you must authorize EI Dorado County HHSA BHP to share data with it. There are 3 easy steps to do this from your App:

Step 1) Begin in your App. Your App will ask you to link your data from your health plan. Follow the instructions on your App to start the linking process.

Step 2) The app will prompt you to log in to your **myHealthPointe** account.

Step 3) Once in **myHealthPointe**, you will be able to choose what information you wish to share with the third-party app and will have ability to approve or deny access. You will follow the set-up instructions. If you are unable to connect from your **myHealthPointe** account, you can find detailed instructions in the **myHealthPointe** Quick Start Guide under Education.

Can minors share their PHI?

Members who are under the age of 12 are not allowed to share their health data unless their parent, guardian, or other personal representative gives approval.

How do I protect my information?

Only share your information with people and apps you trust. These include doctors or others you see or rely on for care.

What else can I do to keep my information safe?

Here are a few tips:

- Only use trusted health apps
- Keep your passwords and log-in information private
- Keep your private papers in a secure place
- Purchase virus protection software for your computer

What do you do if you think your data was used without your permission?

If you think your information was used without your permission, contact the Federal Trade Commission or the State of California Department of Justice. Here is the information you will need to do this.

Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)
www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Office of the Attorney General

1330 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919
(916) 445-9555
<https://oag.ca.gov/idtheft/criminal>

If you believe that a HIPAA-covered entity or its business associate violated your (or someone else's) health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the Privacy, Security, or Breach Notification Rules, you may file a complaint with the Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The OCR can investigate complaints against covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, or health care providers that conduct certain transactions electronically) and their business associates:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights

200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F HHH Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019
TDD: 1-800-537-7697
[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services - Office for Civil Rights \(hhs.gov\)](http://www.hhs.gov)