

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 Educational Resources: Patient Access Application Programming Interface (API)

The Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule gives you the right to see your own health data on a third-party health application (App) you choose on your mobile phone or computer. We will call this “your App”. El Dorado County HHSA Behavioral Health uses the Netsmart Technologies, Inc. (also referred to as “Netsmart”) application called “**myHealthPointe**” to provide your chosen App’s 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 selected App.

What is health data?

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 Behavioral Health (EDCBH) makes your data available through **myHealthPointe**, which will allow EDCBH to share your health data with your App. Please refer to Netsmart’s Terms of Use and Privacy Notice. You may also view our County Protected Health Information Policy for more detailed information about the security of your health data.

EDCBH is a separate entity from your chosen 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, EDCBH 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. EDCBH 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.

What to think about before sharing your health data?

Before you agree to share your health data via **myHealthPointe** with a third-party App, 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 and never reuse the same password for multiple websites, applications, accounts, etc. 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](#)

What is 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.

Third-Party Apps and HIPAA

Your App will have access to your health data once you allow it. Apps are not covered by HIPAA. Reading your third-party App's privacy policy may help you understand how your data may be used. Make sure that you are comfortable with their rules. Your App that publishes a privacy notice must do what it says in that notice. Your selected App may or may not be subject to data privacy laws.

What are your rights under HIPAA?

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

How do you authorize El Dorado County Behavioral Health to share data with your App?

Please send an email to HHSA-BH-API-Info@edcgov.us to request more information.

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 health 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 health information safe?

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

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

Both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have oversight responsibilities. If you think your information was used without your permission, contact the FTC. To file a complaint with the FTC refer to <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>

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 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. To file a complaint with the OCR refer to the [OCR Complaint Portal Assistant](#)

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
[Office for Civil Rights](#)

Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response & Operations

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)
[Division of Consumer Response & Operations](#)

For more information regarding data privacy, please click on the links below:

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)- Patient Privacy and Security Resources](#)

[California Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)- Data Privacy](#)

[Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)- 42 CFR 438.10](#)

[County Protected Health Information Policy](#)