

RSNA® Image Share

Letting patients take control of their medical images



Our radiology department is part of a new network, **RSNA Image Share**, which lets patients access copies of their medical images—X-Rays, CTs, MRIs and ultrasounds—and keep them in online Personal Health Record (PHR) accounts. The Image Share project is funded by the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, one of the National Institutes of Health, and administered by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA®).

What is a PHR?

With a PHR account, you can get an electronic copy of your imaging records to keep and share with doctors anywhere via the Internet. It's an alternative to getting these records on CD or DVD—though that option is still available to you. Many people will find using a PHR to keep and share these records more convenient.

Is it secure?

The Image Share network relies on security features much like the ones you may use for your bank account. All personal information is protected by encryption as it moves through the network. It can only be accessed by using a secure code, or “token,” and a password known only to you. This hospital is required to protect the privacy and security of your information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (or HIPAA). The companies participating in this project have signed agreements committing them to protect your information, as well. You should carefully read the information the PHR companies have made available about their systems to make sure that you're comfortable with the protections they provide.

What do I need to do?

You'll need to create an account with one of the participating PHR providers to access your information. These PHR providers offer systems that are convenient, secure and capable of managing medical images. You can use your account to store your medical information and share it with your doctors and others when—and only when—you decide it's appropriate. Your PHR account can save you from encountering delays and costs when trying to access and share your information.

What will it cost?

Your account at any of the participating PHR providers will be free for at least two years from the time you create it. After two years, the provider may introduce a usage or subscription fee, but must first notify you and obtain your agreement to any charges. You will be able to export your information from the PHR at any time—for example, to store on your own computer and move to a different PHR.

When can I get my information?

Please note that your information will not be available until your physician has had an opportunity to review it and communicate with you about the results. Radiology staff can tell you when that will be. If you encounter difficulties creating an account or accessing your information, you can contact us at the e-mail address or phone number below for help. Each PHR provider also has knowledgeable support staff on hand to answer your questions. Don't hesitate to ask!

In 2012, we'll conduct a short survey by mail and e-mail to get your input on whether you found the Image Share network satisfactory and how we can improve the service we provide to you. Your answers will always remain confidential. We hope you'll respond!