



## Authorization for Access to Patient/Member Information Through a Health Information Exchange Organization

Patient/Member Name	Date of Birth	Patient/Member Identification Number
Patient/Member Address		

I request that health information regarding my care and treatment be accessed as set forth on this form. I can choose whether or not to allow VNS Health healthcare service providers and healthcare insurance plans to obtain access to my medical records through the health information exchange organizations called the Bronx RHIO and Healthix. The healthcare service providers called VNS Health Home Care, VNS Health Hospice Care, VNS Health Personal Care, Medical Care at Home, P.C. and VNSNY Care Management IPA, as well as the VNS Health Health Plans, are collectively referred to in this form as "VNS Health". If I give consent, my medical records from different places where I get health care can be accessed using a statewide computer network. The Bronx RHIO and Healthix are not-for-profit organizations that share information about people's health electronically, meet the privacy and security standards of HIPAA and New York State Law, and participate in the SHIN-NY (State Health Information Network for New York). To learn more, visit their websites at:

- [BronxRHIO.org](http://BronxRHIO.org)
- [Healthix.org](http://Healthix.org)

**The choice I make in this form will NOT affect my ability to get medical care. The choice I make in this form does NOT allow health insurers to have access to my information for the purpose of deciding whether to provide me with health insurance coverage or pay my medical bills.**

<p><b>My Consent Choice.</b> ONE box is checked to the left of my choice. I can fill out this form now or in the future. I can also change my decision at any time by completing a new form.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>1. I GIVE CONSENT</b> for VNS Health to access ALL of my electronic health information through the Bronx RHIO and Healthix to provide health care.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2. I DENY CONSENT</b> for VNS Health to access my electronic health information through the Bronx RHIO and Healthix for any purpose.</p>

If I want to deny consent for all Provider Organizations and Health Plans participating in the Bronx RHIO and/or Healthix to access my electronic health information through the Bronx RHIO and/or Healthix, I may do so by visiting their websites or calling them directly:

- [BronxRHIO.org](http://BronxRHIO.org) (718) 708-6630
- [Healthix.org](http://Healthix.org) (877) 695-4749

My questions about this form have been answered and I have been provided a copy of this form.

Signature of Patient/Member or Patient/Member's Legal Representative	Date
Print Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)	Relationship of Legal Representative to Patient/Member (if applicable)

## Details about the information accessed through the Bronx RHIO and Healthix and the consent process:

- 1. How Your Information May be Used.** Your electronic health information will be used **only** for the following healthcare services:
  - **Treatment Services.** Provide you with medical treatment and related services.
  - **Insurance Eligibility Verification.** Check whether you have health insurance and what it covers.
  - **Care Management Activities.** These include assisting you in obtaining appropriate medical care, improving the quality of services provided to you, coordinating the provision of multiple health care services provided to you, or supporting you in following a plan of medical care.
  - **Quality Improvement Activities.** Evaluate and improve the quality of medical care provided to you and all patients.
- 2. What Types of Information about You Are Included.** If you give consent, the Provider Organization(s) and/or Health Plan(s) listed may access ALL of your electronic health information available through the Bronx RHIO and Healthix. This includes information created before and after the date this form is signed. Your health records may include a history of illnesses or injuries you have had (like diabetes or a broken bone), test results (like X-rays or blood tests), and lists of medicines you have taken. This information may include sensitive health conditions, including but not limited to:


• Alcohol or Drug Use Problems & Diagnosis	• Medication & Dosages	• Living Situation
• Birth control & abortion (family planning)	• Diagnostic Information	• Social Supports
• Genetic (inherited) diseases or tests	• Allergies	• Claims Encounter Data
• HIV/AIDS	• Substance Use History Summaries	• Lab Test
• Mental health conditions	• Clinical Notes	• Trauma History
• Sexually transmitted diseases	• Discharge Summary	• Health Insurance Claims History
	• Employment Information	
- 3. Where Health Information About You Comes From.** Information about you comes from places that have provided you with medical care or health insurance. These may include hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, clinical laboratories, health insurers, the Medicaid program, and other organizations that exchange health information electronically. A complete, current list is available from the Bronx RHIO and Healthix. You can obtain an updated list at any time by checking their websites or calling them directly.
  - [BronxRHIO.org](http://BronxRHIO.org) (718) 708-6630
  - [Healthix.org](http://Healthix.org) (877) 695-4749
- 4. Who May Access Information About You, If You Give Consent.** Only doctors and other staff participants of the Organization(s) you have given consent to access who carry out activities permitted by this form as described above in paragraph one.
- 5. Public Health and Organ Procurement Organization Access.** Federal, state or local public health agencies and certain organ procurement organizations are authorized by law to access health information without a patient's consent for certain public health and organ transplant purposes. These entities may access your information through the Bronx RHIO and Healthix for these purposes without regard to whether you give consent, deny consent or do not fill out a consent form.
- 6. Penalties for Improper Access to or Use of Your Information.** There are penalties for inappropriate access to or use of your electronic health information. If at any time you suspect that someone who should not have seen or gotten access to information about you has done so, call the Visiting Nurse Service of New York at (212) 290-4773 or visit the Bronx RHIO, and/or Healthix websites listed above; or call the NYS Department of Health at (518) 474-5423; or follow the complaint process of the federal Office for Civil Rights at the following link: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/>
- 7. Re-disclosure of Information.** Any organization(s) you have given consent to access health information about you may re-disclose your health information, but only to the extent permitted by state and federal laws and regulations. Alcohol/drug treatment-related information or confidential HIV-related information may only be accessed and may only be re-disclosed if accompanied by the required statements regarding prohibition of re-disclosure.
- 8. Effective Period.** This Consent Form will remain in effect until the day you change your consent choice or until such time as the Bronx RHIO and/or Healthix ceases operation (**or until 50 years after your death whichever occurs first**). If the Bronx RHIO and/or Healthix merge with another Qualified Entity your consent choices will remain effective with the newly merged entity.
- 9. Changing Your Consent Choice.** You can change your consent choice at any time and for any Provider Organization or Health Plan by submitting a new Consent Form with your new choice. Organizations that access your health information through the Bronx RHIO and/or Healthix while your consent is in effect may copy or include your information in their own medical records. Even if you later decide to change your consent decision, they are not required to return your information or remove it from their records.
- 10. Copy of Form.** You are entitled to get a copy of this Consent Form.