

## **NYU Langone and Electronic Medical Recording – Privacy and Security with Epic**

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### **What is an Electronic Medical Record?**

An electronic medical record (EMR) is a secure, paperless record of a patient's medical history, including past and present symptoms and diagnoses, lab results, scans, treatments, and prescriptions. NYU Langone is employing an EMR called Epic that will lead to a new level of integrated care within the medical center and its affiliates. The system will improve the quality of our patient care, give you a new level of access to your medical information, and provide better access to our staff.

#### **Who gets access to my electronic information?**

Just as when your medical information was stored on paper, only licensed professionals that require access to your information to better treat you will see your records. Every healthcare provider that shares or uses information through the NYU Langone Medical Center Health Information System must obey strict security and privacy rules.

#### **What does NYU Langone do to make certain that my information is secure?**

The EMR is stored in an encrypted and highly secure network.

Also, NYU Langone takes patients' privacy very seriously, and we will be conducting random and unannounced audits to make sure that there are no violations of use of the new electronic system. If anyone ever is found to be viewing information that they should not be accessing, they will be subject to termination of their employment.

#### **Are there any improvements to my health information privacy?**

In fact, there are improvements to privacy and security through the EMR. With an electronic record, NYU Langone can track the opening of your record, so we would quickly be able to determine if there was ever any suspicious activity – an improved security measure from paper charts.

#### **Why do I have to sign a release form?**

The release form is standard practice for newly implemented EMRs, and your signature indicates that you are aware of the new system and that your information is being stored electronically.

#### **Is my information still protected by HIPAA regulations?**

Yes, just as it was prior to an EMR, your information is protected by HIPAA regulations and state and federal laws that keep it confidential.

