

# MEDICAL INFO AT your fingertips

Want to check your lab results? The date of your last physical? A list of your current medications?



No problem – sign into MyChart, an online medical record system for patients of Mercy Medical Center and MercyCare clinics.

MyChart offers immediate, convenient access to your health information, with the ability to schedule and review physician appointments online and communicate with providers through secure messaging. Previously, patient records were stored at each point of care, such as your primary care physician's office, the emergency room, a specialist's office, etc.

Now, one chart integrates a patient's health information from the hospital, Mercy outpatient services and the MercyCare physician offices. Medications, allergies, medical history and insurance information are included in the chart, which is updated at every patient encounter and remains part of a single patient record.

MyChart is one of the most significant benefits from Mercy's conversion to Epic, an electronic health information system implemented by some of the largest health systems in the country. Sharing relevant patient data with other healthcare organizations through Epic also is possible, with information easily accessible to care providers. It's that simple – one patient, one chart.

Another key benefit of Epic is that physician orders go directly to the pharmacy, laboratory, radiology department and nursing staff with no need for manual transcription, which greatly reduces chances for order errors.

Mercy is utilizing mobile computer technology, Workstations on Wheels (WoWs), to facilitate the hospital's commitment to bedside documentation right at the point of care. With Mercy's open charting policy, you can review information in your chart along with your care provider.

Tracking and reporting quality metrics is easier with Epic. Mercy will report many of these measures in the next annual Mercy Quality Report (to see the 2012 report, visit [www.mercycare.org/qualityreport](http://www.mercycare.org/qualityreport)). Many of the metrics are part of the "meaningful use" requirements from the federal government,

designed to improve care and communication between provider and patient.

After each physician visit or hospital discharge, patients receive an After Visit Summary with information concerning their current illness and recommendations for continued care after discharge. This information also is automatically delivered to your MyChart account.

The summary also includes the patient's medical history, medication list and personalized instructions about the future treatment plan, including arranged referrals and any scheduled tests. This leads to improved patient satisfaction, better communication, and increased quality of care by avoiding errors and misunderstandings.

Drug-allergy interaction checks are another built-in safety feature. The computer compares newly ordered medications to the documented allergy list with an immediate warning if a drug-allergy interaction is present.

The system also records cigarette smoking history, which is updated by all providers. When clinicians address the smoking status, a smoker can be encouraged to quit and offered help. We know that smoking one to two packs per day during adult life decreases life expectancy by about 10 years. Other health issues associated with smoking include chronic lung disease, asthma, heart disease and cancer.

But what if you are on vacation and can't receive your care at Mercy? Epic can produce a Continuity of Care Document to allow the exchange of patient clinical information among multiple providers and other institutions around the country. This will provide more accurate communication and improved advanced integrated quality healthcare for our community, whether they are home or away.

Studies have shown better patient outcomes using electronic medical records, and there are fewer errors in ordering medications and medical tests. Epic will help Mercy provide higher quality care at a lower cost – with *The Mercy Touch*.



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[mychart.mercycare.org](http://mychart.mercycare.org)

Mercy's MyChart, an online health record for patients, is available to patients of Mercy Medical Center and MercyCare locations. Sign up at [mychart.mercycare.org](http://mychart.mercycare.org).