

June 2009

Dear Monroe County Resident:

Soon, you will be able to sign up for a free service that will help doctors to improve patient care.

The service is Rochester RHIO, our regional health information organization. It will help medical professionals get patient information electronically, such as lab reports, X-rays, and medication history. Much of this information is shared today using phone calls, postal mail or fax machines.

Rochester RHIO is a secure online exchange designed to make the process faster and more accurate for doctors throughout the region. It uses advanced information safeguards to protect patient privacy more effectively than paper records.

Rochester RHIO will benefit patients in many ways:

- Fewer repeated tests
- Easier second opinions
- Reduced risk of medical mistakes
- Faster treatment in a medical emergency
- Less chance of adverse drug interactions through use of electronic prescribing
- Greater convenience for patients who won't have to hand-carry records

Your doctor may already be using Rochester RHIO, and more physicians will be signing up over time. In addition, hospitals in Monroe County will start to use it over the next few months.

When you next visit a doctor who uses Rochester RHIO, you will have the opportunity to sign a consent form. You will need to sign the form for that doctor to see your health information electronically. If your provider is not currently using the RHIO, you can check back at future visits.

As one of many physicians involved in creating Rochester RHIO—and a patient who just signed up myself—I encourage you to sign the consent form. It will help to improve your medical care and the community health system.

For a list of participating doctors, or any questions about Rochester RHIO, please visit www.RochesterRHIO.org or call **(877) 865-RHIO**. You can also e-mail info@grrhio.org.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Doniger, M.D.
Member, Rochester RHIO Board of Directors
Director, Monroe County Department of Public Health