

Blue Cross Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network Patient Access API

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are required by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services to provide you with access to detailed information about your health history through a patient access API, or application program interface, which allows applications to talk to each other by exchanging data.

It's important that you to understand the app you select will have access to **all** your information and isn't subject to any privacy laws, including the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the federal law restricting the release of medical information.

Instead, each app's privacy policy describes self-imposed limitations on how it will use, disclose and (possibly) see information about you. Before you decide to access your information through a patient access API app, we recommend you carefully review its privacy policy to make sure you're comfortable with how your information will be used.

When selecting an app, ask yourself:

- Will this app **sell** my data for any reason?
- Will this app **disclose** my data to third parties for purposes such as research or advertising?
- How will this app **use** my data? For what purposes?
- Will the app allow me to limit how it uses, discloses or sells my data?
- If I no longer want to use this app, or no longer want this app to have access to my health information, can I terminate its access to my data? What's the termination process?
- What is the app's policy for **deleting** my data once I terminate access? Do I have to do more than just delete the app from my device?
- How will this app notify me of changes in its privacy practices?
- Will the app collect non-health data from my device, such as my location?
- What security measures does this app use to protect my data?
- Could sharing my data with this app have an impact on others, such as my family members?

- Will the app allow me to access my data and correct inaccuracies? (Correcting inaccuracies in data collected by the app won't affect inaccuracies in the source of the data.)
- Does the app have a process for collecting and responding to user complaints?

If the app's privacy policy doesn't satisfactorily answer these questions, you may want to reconsider using it. Your health information may include very sensitive information. We recommend you choose an app with strong privacy and security standards.