

South Dakota Health Link

- provided by the South Dakota Department of Health, guided by advisory council, goal of Health Link is to help providers save time, reduce costs, and improve the quality, safety and efficiency of care for South Dakotans
- connects hospitals, federally qualified health centers, primary care providers, specialists, labs and pharmacies, public health agencies
- network allows secure consultation among providers and sharing of test results for better patient outcomes
- allows participating providers to **safely and securely** share limited set of electronic patient chart information with other participating providers in state to:
 - enable faster, more accurate diagnoses and less time and effort for everyone involved
 - share critical information immediately during routine visit or medical emergency, eliminating the need for phone calls, faxing and mailing of charts and records
 - ensure critical, life-saving information is available to participating healthcare providers in the event of a medical emergency
- consumers may opt-out of having their information shared among providers; details are available on the consumer website (www.pointofcaresd.org); consumer education and outreach are important part of the secure network
- planning for Health Link began in 2007 with input from stakeholders representing healthcare providers, consumers, state agencies and others; strategic and operation plan is available at www.sdhealthlink.org

Information Links

- For SD consumers – www.pointofcaresd.org
- For SD providers – www.sdhealthlink.org
- Federal health information technology initiatives – www.HealthIT.gov.