

A decorative graphic consisting of several yellow and orange leaves of various shapes and sizes, arranged in a loose, circular pattern around the text.

Signing the **SHIN-NY** Statewide Common Participation Agreement (SCPA)

Frequently asked questions

What is SCPA?

The Statewide Common Participation Agreement (SCPA) is the contract that will govern the relationship between the Health Information Networks (HINs) that comprise the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY) and the individuals and organizations that participate in the SHIN-NY (SHIN-NY Participants).

All SHIN-NY Participants are required to execute the SCPA pursuant to the regulations governing the SHIN-NY (10 NYCRR Part 300), which the New York State Department of Health (DOH) amended in July 2024.

What is a HIN?

Health Information Network (HIN) is an organization that maintains health information and provides services as part of SHIN-NY. The New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) and the six existing Qualified Entities (QEs) - Bronx RHIO, Greater Rochester Regional Health Information Organization, HealtheConnections, Healthix, Hixny, and HEALTHeLINK - are each considered a HIN in the SCPA.

As part of the SCPA, Participants will select one HIN to be their Designated HIN; a Designated HIN is responsible for providing Required Participant Services to Participant at no cost.

Participants who want to work with more than one HIN are able to do so by selecting Additional HINs and / or Value-Added HINs as part of the SCPA onboarding process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the SCPA change my organization's participation in the SHIN-NY and in HEALTHeLINK?

The SCPA is intended to make participation in the SHIN-NY as a whole **more valuable and efficient** and will allow the SHIN-NY to adapt to change and advances in health information exchange and to offer Participants meaningful choices in how and where they receive SHIN-NY services. Key benefits of SHIN-NY participation under the SCPA include:

- Consistency state-wide in how health information may be shared and used, which will also allow the SHIN-NY to build a structure for more efficient and transparent data governance across the SHIN-NY.
- Consistency in services provided to Participants and empowering Participants with multiple choices on where to access services.
- With the evolution and advancement of new technology in health information exchange and national networks, the SCPA also allows for flexibility in how Participants connect and contribute data to the SHIN-NY. Where the SHIN-NY might be able to rely on those national networks for data exchange in the future, it will be a more effective and valuable resource to the New York healthcare ecosystem.
- The ability to develop consistent SHIN-NY standards for interoperability with input from Participants that allow the SHIN-NY to adapt to current technology and best practices.

If your organization chooses to continue working with HEALTHeLINK and selects HEALTHeLINK as its Designated HIN there will be no interruption in your current services.

Is my organization required to sign the SCPA?

All SHIN-NY Participants are required to be governed by the language of the SCPA and may be required to sign a new SCPA pursuant to the regulations governing the SHIN-NY (10 NYCRR Part 300), which the New York State Department of Health (DOH) amended in July 2024.

Under 10 N.Y.C.R.R. § 300.6(a), certain organizations – called “Regulated Participants” in the SCPA – must connect to the SHIN-NY and therefore must be governed by the SCPA. These organizations are health care facilities as defined in section 18(c)(1) of the Public Health Law, which consists of:

- Hospitals subject to Public Health Law Article 28
- Nursing homes subject to Public Health Law Article 28
- Clinics (including diagnostic and treatment centers) subject to Public Health Law Article 28
- Home Care Services Agencies subject to Public Health Law Article 36
- Hospices subject to Public Health Law Article 40
- HMOs subject to Public Health Law Article 44
- Shared Health Facilities subject to Public Health Law Article 47

Organizations that are not required to connect to the SHIN-NY – called “Voluntary Participants” in the SCPA – can continue using their existing HEALTHeLINK Participant Agreement, which will be updated to align with the SCPA. These organizations consist of:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitals not subject to Public Health Law Article 28 (including psychiatric hospitals and general hospitals located outside of New York State)• Clinics not subject to Public Health Law Article 28• Individual Practitioners (including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, psychologists and physical therapists)• Practitioner Groups (including physician groups and dental groups)• Health Insurers (other than an HMO subject to Public Health Law Article 44)• Health Homes• Pharmacies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laboratories• Public Health Agencies• Community-Based Organizations• Accountable Care Organizations• Independent Practice Associations• Organ Procurement Organization• Disaster Relief Agencies• New York State Department of Health or its contractors• Other |
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my organization continue to operate under our existing Participation Agreement with a QE instead of signing the SCPA?

Regulated Participants may be required to sign the SCPA; Voluntary Participants can continue to operate under their existing HEALTHeLINK Participant Agreement, which will be updated to align with the SCPA. These updates will enable Voluntary Participants to continue participating in and contributing data to the SHIN-NY on the same terms and conditions as the SCPA. All new Participants (Regulated or Voluntary) will need to sign the SCPA.

Importantly, the SCPA does not prevent the parties from retaining (or entering into) agreements that address a different subject matter, such as agreements that exclusively govern the provision of Value-Added Services (so long as applicable requirements under the SCPA are met).

What is the deadline for signing the SCPA?

All Regulated Participants must sign the new SCPA on or before September 30, 2025. On October 1, 2025, the SCPA will go into effect for **Regulated Participants**.

Voluntary Participants can continue to use their existing HEALTHeLINK Participant Agreement. This agreement will be updated to align with the SCPA. These updates will enable Voluntary Participants to continue participating in and contributing data to the SHIN-NY on the same terms and conditions as the SCPA.

Why are all seven HINs signing the SCPA if my organization will interact with only one of those HINs?

The SCPA is designed to empower SHIN-NY participants with the ability to choose the HINs through which they connect with the SHIN-NY, and to change that election if desired. By having all HINs sign the SCPA, it removes the need for a SHIN-NY Participant to sign a new SCPA agreement when making a new HIN selection. In addition, by signing with all HINs, SHIN-NY Participants obtain assurances that all HINs that touch their data - not just their Designated HIN - will follow a consistent set of privacy and security requirements.

My organization consists of multiple legal entities. Can we execute one SCPA, or are we required to execute a different version of the SCPA for each legal entity?

Your organization can elect to execute on behalf of multiple legal entities if you have the legal authority to act on behalf of all such entities. Your organization should identify those legal entities on whose behalf your organization is authorized to execute the SCPA.



**Get in
touch**

Contact your HEALTHeLINK Account Manager
or accountmanagers2@wnyhealthelink.com
with any questions.
