



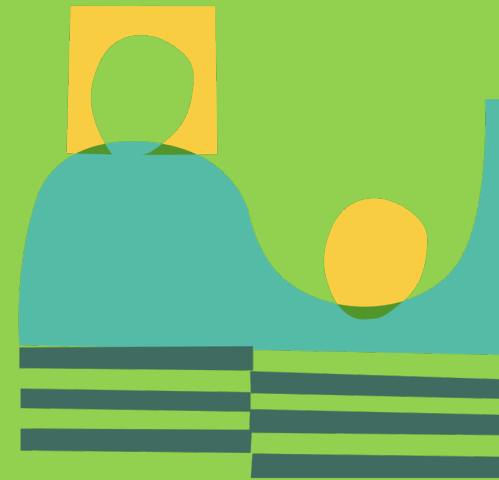
# **About VITL and the Vermont Health Information Exchange**

February 4, 2025

## **VITL**



# About VITL and Our Work





## About VITL

VITL is a Vermont-based 501(c) (3) nonprofit that shares health information responsibly to help providers care for their patients.

18 V.S.A. § 9352 designates VITL as the operator of the Vermont Health Information Exchange – a health data sharing network that is creating one health record for every Vermonter.

**VITL's mission** is to securely aggregate, standardize, and share the data needed to improve the effectiveness of health care for Vermonters





# Health Data Interoperability

VITL enables the sharing of health data across systems

- VITL provides the ability to collect health information from disparate systems and sources and make it meaningful and usable for all stakeholders
- VITL collects, matches, and standardizes patient data in real time from health care providers caring for Vermonters to create one longitudinal record for each person in the Vermont Health Information Exchange



# VITL is a Data Sharing Hub

Connecting to VITL reduces data sharing burden for provider organizations

- For health care organizations, connecting to VITL replaces the need to build many point-to-point connections
- VITL efficiently delivers their health data to the places it needs to go
  - For example – results delivery to other providers, data to the Vermont Department of Health, the Blueprint for Health, Bi-State Primary Care Association, and more
- The result is reduced provider and organization burden and more data available to support”
  - Patient care
  - Care management
  - Quality improvement
  - Health care reform
  - Public health activities
  - Population health initiatives



# VITL Participants

*241 total organizations contribute and/or access data through VITL*

	Contribute Data	Access Data
<b>Hospitals</b> (including all Vermont hospitals and two border hospitals, along with their inpatient and ambulatory services, emergency departments, and owned specialty and primary care practices)	15	16
<b>Vermont Federally Qualified Health Centers</b>	11	10
<b>Independent Specialty and Primary Care Practices</b>	49	91
<b>Home Health Agencies</b>	4	5
<b>Nursing Homes and Long-term Care Facilities</b>	0	4
<b>Pharmacy Chains and Independent Pharmacies</b>	11	1
<b>Laboratories (State and Commercial)</b>	15	0
<b>Departments of the State of Vermont</b>	2	3
<b>Designated Mental Health Agencies and Specialized Services Agencies</b>	0	12
<b>Emergency Medical Services Agencies</b>	0	50
<b>Commercial Payer</b>	0	1





# VITL Data

## Types of data VITL collects and shares

Health information exchange transmits information originally collected in providers' electronic health records (EHRs) using specific types of messages and data feeds, defined by international standards like Health Level Seven (HL7) and Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR). VITL ingests and shares the following data types:

- Admission, discharge, and transfer messages (ADT) notifications
- Patient record summaries called Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs)
- Laboratory and pathology test results
- Radiology reports  
*Radiologists' readings of diagnostic imaging, not the images themselves*
- Clinical notes and transcriptions
- Home health monitoring data
- Immunization records





# VITL Data Access Services

Secure access to comprehensive health records, when and where data is needed

The **VITLAccess clinical web portal** offers access to one consolidated health record. It is available to providers and staff at health care organizations, public and private payers, ACOs, emergency medical services, and public health authorities. ([click for a video about use by EMS agencies](#))

**Delivery of test results, imaging reports, and notes into electronic health records (EHRs)**, for greater efficiency compared to fax- and phone-based workflows.

**Delivery of clinical summary documents into EHRs**, enables health care organizations to pull clinical record summaries from VITL data contributors, called Continuity of Care Documents, into their EHRs.

**In-EHR Immunization Registry Query**, delivers comprehensive immunization histories from the Vermont Department of Health's Immunization Registry directly into the patient record along with a forecast of patient immunization recommendations. ([click for a case study about registry query](#))

**Event notification**, through a partner who delivers real-time data about patient care provided in Vermont's emergency departments and hospitals, helping the whole care team coordinate services and supports.

**Custom reporting**, which provides data about patient and population health.





# VITL Data Delivery Services

## VITL is a hub for efficient data sharing

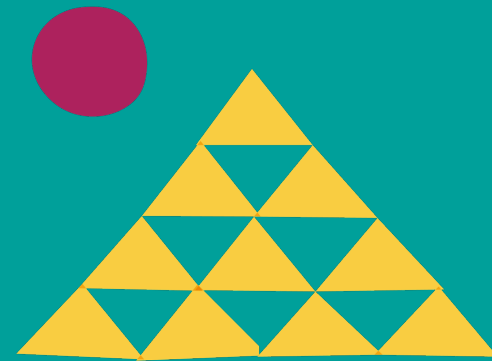
VITL enables our data contributors to send data once – to the Vermont Health Information Exchange. The data that VITL delivers informs care delivery and coordination, public health, and population health efforts.

In 2024, VITL delivered data, on behalf of data contributors, to:

- Clinicians and staff at organizations that provide patient care
- Public and private payers
- The Vermont Department of Health
- Bi-State Primary Care Association
- The Vermont Blueprint for Health
- The Vermont Chronic Care Initiative



# How Data is Shared





## How Vermonters' Data is Shared

- Data sharing is governed by the Services Agreements between VITL and organizations that contribute and use data, by state and federal law including HIPAA, by VITL policies, and Appendix A of the State's HIE Strategic Plan.
- An individual Vermonter's data is available to authorized users.
- Currently, 98.9% of Vermonters are sharing their data.



# Data Security and Privacy

The security and confidentiality of patient health records in the Vermont Health Information Exchange has always been a core focus of VITL's work

- A privacy officer and a security officer oversee policy development and implementation and deliver education for all VITL staff. Our security policies align with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) security and privacy controls, which addresses incident response, identity and authentication, access control, audit and logging, configuration management, contingency planning, and supply chain risk management.
- Access to Vermont Health Information Exchange data is logged and is audited regularly, in compliance with federal and state laws and VITL policies. Patients can also request an audit of access of their data.
- VITL engages in thorough security testing, including an annual third-party evaluation of our adherence to rigorous security standards to identify improvement opportunities and priorities. VITL will continue to regularly review and update our security tools and policies to ensure alignment with best practices and mitigate the ever-changing threat landscape. Our goal is to maintain effective, sustainable protections across all data managed by VITL.



# Patient Education

## Ongoing patient education through provider partnerships and public outreach

- VITL is rare among HIEs in its commitment to direct engagement with patients (Vermonters)
- Transparency builds trust - Public education has become a core part of our service to Vermonters
- Education campaigns focus on how data is shared, why it matters, and every Vermonter's options – including access to individual records
- More information for individuals is available at [vitl.net/sharing](https://vitl.net/sharing)



# VITLAccess – clinical portal



# Spotlight on VITLAccess

VITL | Help | Gilbert Maurine (M GilbertClinicalTRAIN) | Sign out

**VITL** Patient Charts Sources: All

VITLPERSON, ONE (M, 58) Demographics Address: 123 VITL Way Apt ABC, Burlington, VT  
DOB: 05/03/1966

Summary Problems All Results Medication Documents Allergies

**All Results**

Date	All	Status	Alert	Provider	Date	Status	Source
Office Visit: office visit-DM flu					05/26/2020 09:35	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Hepatitis C Ab w Rflx HCV PCR					04/23/2020 14:52	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel					04/21/2020 19:00	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Basic Metabolic Panel, Direct LDL Chol, Vitamin B12					04/16/2019 13:46	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Microalbumin					04/23/2018 13:25	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Syphilis Serology (RPR)					11/01/2017 13:57	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Complete Blood Count No Diff, ESR					10/31/2017 13:50	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: TSH (W/Ref FT4), Vitamin B12					10/31/2017 13:45	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel, Lipid 2					04/07/2017 07:45	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Lab Report: PSA, Screening					10/17/2016 07:40	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Clinical Lists Update: Lab Results					10/28/2014 11:08	Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington

**Immunizations**

Immunization	Administered Date	Dose	Refused	Refusal Reason	Body Site	Source
Prenmar 13 Purchased Intramus Susp 00005-1971-02	10/28/2019 08:49	0.5 mL				Community Health Centers of Burlington
2017 Afluria Quad Intramus Susp PURCHASED Supply 33332-417-10	10/23/2017 11:08	0.5 mL				Community Health Centers of Burlington
Pneumovax 23 Injection Injectable 25 MCG/0.5ML	09/05/2017 12:24	0.5 mL				Community Health Centers of Burlington
Boostrix Intramuscular Suspension 5-2-5 18.5	09/05/2017 12:23	0.5 mL				Community Health Centers of Burlington

**Documents**

Type	Description	Status	Imported Date	Print Options	Created	Source
Summarization of episode note	Fictitious Health Center Clinical Summary	Final	02/16/2024 14:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	05/27/2021 21:46	Community Health Centers of Burlington
Interdisciplinary Plan of Care Note	Test Shared Plan of Care Upload Interdisciplinary Plan of Care Note	Final	10/24/2024 12:37	<input type="checkbox"/>		Maurine Gilbert (VITL)
Interdisciplinary Plan of Care	Test Shared Plan of Care Upload 2 Interdisciplinary Plan of Care	Final	10/24/2024 07:56	<input type="checkbox"/>		Maurine Gilbert (VITL)
Interdisciplinary Plan of Care Note	Test Shared Plan of Care Upload Interdisciplinary Plan of Care Note	Final	10/24/2024 12:32	<input type="checkbox"/>		Maurine Gilbert (VITL)

**Medication**

Date Written: All Active Filter(s) active - to view additional data adjust search criteria or filter(s), or reset to all

Medication	Dose	Provider	Status	Route	Start/End Dates	Date Written	Source
METOPROLOL			Active	ORAL	Start: 10/15/2021 00:00 End: 10/15/2021 00:00	10/15/2021 00:00	Community Health Centers of Burlington

**Encounters**

Start Date: All End Date: All

Encounter Type	Location	Provider	Facility Source	Encounter Number	Admit Date	Discharge Date	Hospital Service	Admit/Discharge Dates	Admit Reason	Source	Source Document
Emergency		Attender: PR OVIDER,			04/06/2022 01:55	04/06/2022 04:51	Emergency Medicine	04/06/2022 01:55 -		Northeastern Vermont	HL7V2 message

**Family History**

Onset Date: All Resolved Date: All Active Filter(s) active - to view additional data adjust search criteria or filter(s), or reset to all

Problem/Condition	Status	Onset Date	Resolved Date	Age at Onset	Deceased	Age at Death	Relation	Source	Source Document
Obesity Sister	Active				No		Sister	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message
Hypertensive disorder Sister	Active				No		Sister	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message
Diabetes mellitus Unspecified Relation	Active				No		Unspecified Relation	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message

Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement | Provider Portal 1.0.0 © 2024 MedicaSoft



# Inside VITLAccess

VITL

Patient Charts

Sources: All

VITLPERSON, ONE (M, 58)  
DOB: 05/03/1966

Demographics

Address: 123 VITL Way Apt ABC, Burlington, VT

Clinician Dashboard

Patient Charts

Summary Problems All Results Medication Documents Allergies

Type: All Lab Blood Bank Micro Path Radiology Cardio Trans Other

Status: All Final

Search For Report or Lab Test

Expand Results

Office Visit: office visit-DM f/u

Reported: 05/26/2020 09:35

Report ID: 441cf059-445f-4bf2-bcaa-c739d7ec5076

Status: Final

Test	Alert	Date	Type	Provider	Status	Source	Source Document	Print	Options
Office Visit: office visit-DM f/u		05/26/2020 09:35	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lab Report: Hepatitis C Ab w Rflx HCV PCR		04/23/2020 14:52	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lab Report: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel		04/21/2020 19:00	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lab Report: Basic Metabolic Panel, Direct LDL Chol, Vitamin B12		04/16/2019 13:46	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lab Report: Microalbumin		04/23/2018 13:25	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lab Report: Comprehensive Metabolic Panel, Lipid 2		04/07/2017 07:45	Lab		Final	Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lab Report: PSA,		10/17/2016 07:40	Lab		Final	Community Health	HL7V2 message		<input type="checkbox"/>

Test	Value	Range	Interpretation	Status
Microalbumin Concentration-Random	100 mg/dL		No known value	Final
Comments: MALB CNC-RND				
hemoglobin A1C, blood, as % of total hemoglobin	5.8 %		No known value	Final
Comments: HGBA1C				

Source Organization	Document	Date
Community Health Centers of Burlington	HL7V2 message	12/20/2021 23:15





# Partnering with Public Health



# Partnership: Public Health

## Growing partnership delivers data in support of many public health uses

- During COVID, HIEs demonstrated real value in support of public health
  - Connected with new testing sites for testing data
  - Collected and delivering immunization records
  - Delivered daily reporting of hospitalizations, resource usage
  - Supported case investigations and contact tracing
- VITL's partnership with the Department of Health continues to grow
  - A connection to the Vermont Immunization Registry enables providers to pull immunization history and forecasts directly into their EHRs
  - Expanded lab reporting for reportable diseases
  - Expanded use of portal by public health
  - Strategic plan in place for the coming years – currently integrating birth records and immunization records
  - Exploring opportunities to access and use deidentified and aggregate data to inform public health work
  - Delivering data to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) public health nutrition program ([click for a case study to learn more](#))



# Highlighting Projects on the Horizon



# Social Drivers of Health

At the ground floor of a standardized statewide approach to SDOH data sharing

- Multi-stakeholder group including health care, health delivery reform, and accountable care organization aligning on statewide use of the Accountable Health Communities Health Related Social Needs screening tool, State of Vermont simultaneously developing an SDOH data roadmap
- Opportunity to co-design an end-to-end system for data collection, sharing, and use
- Challenging each other to plan for equity, build-in approaches that enable all provider organizations to collect and share SDOH data





## Upcoming work we're excited about

Continuing to build one health record for every Vermonter and make health data available to improve outcomes, support health care operations, and guide investment and policy decisions

- Integrate new data types into the Vermont Health Information Exchange, including more substance use disorder data and SDOH data
- Continue work to leverage new technologies to deliver the health data that providers need when and where they need it – often directly in EHRs
- Evaluate opportunities to participate in federal interoperability initiatives while also protecting the privacy of sensitive data that is protected under Vermont law
- Work with Vermont's Agency of Human Services to support their development of a "Unified Health Data Space"





## Contact VITL

Thank you for your time. Please be in touch with questions or to set up time to learn more.

You can reach Beth Anderson directly at [banderson@vitl.net](mailto:banderson@vitl.net).

You can reach the VITL team Monday-Friday, 9-5 at [support@vitl.net](mailto:support@vitl.net) or 802-861-1800.

The VITL website is [vitl.net](https://www.vitl.net), or visit us on LinkedIn  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/vitl>

Information for patients is available at [vitl.net/for-Vermonters](https://www.vitl.net/for-Vermonters).





**VITL**