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(79) Indiana Health Coverage Programs Introduces File Exchange (Updated 6/23/2005)

The IHCP now offers a secure file transfer protocol (FTP) option called File Exchange for exchanging data electronically. File Exchange is a new application that supports secure file processing, storage, and transfer. It is designed to collect, store, manage, and distribute sensitive information between the IHCP and an organization.

Web browsers and low or no cost secure FTP clients can exchange files with File Exchange through encrypted connections using the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) over secure socket layer (SSL) secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS), FTP over SSL secure file transfer protocol (SFTP) and FTP over secure shell (SSH) SFTP protocols. All files received by File Exchange are securely stored using Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 197 validated advanced encryption standard (AES). This encryption standard is approved by the Indiana Information Technology Oversight Commission (ITOC) and the U.S. government. File Exchange requires changes to current communication components but does provide several advantages including increased speed and security. File Exchange also allows the IHCP and its trading partners to satisfy the data integrity, auditing, and privacy standards established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) security and privacy rules.

Initially, all files exchanged with the IHCP using File Exchange will contain HIPAA transactions and related reports. File Exchange may be expanded in the future to include additional types of data to be exchanged with the IHCP. The [File Exchange "How To" Guide](#) contains information about using secure FTP for electronic data interchange. Additional information can be found in the [Companion Guide: Electronic Data Interchange Communications Guide](#).