



New Jersey Assembly Bill 4476 and Long-Term Care Providers

What New Jersey assisted living, memory care, and
other senior living communities need to know

What is NJ AB 4476?

New Jersey Assembly Bill 4476 is a state law passed by the New Jersey legislature on August 27, 2020 and signed by Governor Phil Murphy on September 16, 2020 to improve New Jersey's preparedness for both COVID- 19 and future pandemics. The full text of the statute is available on the New Jersey Legislature website.

What does NJ AB 4476 say about using an EHR?

The new law says that all New jersey long-term care providers must do two things:

- Use an EHR that is certified by the Office of the National Coordinator for Healthcare IT (a department of the US Department of Health and Human Services)
- Connect to the New Jersey Health Information Network ("NJHIN")

What is the deadline for complying with the EHR and NJHIN requirement and who does it apply to?

Authorities have started enforcing the mandate **March 31, 2022** for assisted living organizations and **June 30, 2022** for comprehensive/memory care organizations.

The new requirements apply to nursing homes, assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, residential health care facilities, and dementia care homes licensed by the State of New Jersey.

What steps will I need to take to comply with this law?

Your long-term care community will need to take two steps:

1. Implement a compliant and NJHIN-connected EHR
2. Enter into a data-sharing agreement with the NJHIN

If you have not yet implemented an EHR, you should consider implementing an EHR immediately. If you have implemented an EHR that is not working towards compliance with AB 4476, you should consider upgrading to an alternative EHR.

Who should I reach out to better understand this regulation and connect to the NJHIN?

1. The NJHIN is owned by the New Jersey Department of Health and is operated by the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), an institute of the New Jersey Institute of Technology that has been designated by the state as responsible for developing and managing the health information network. To execute a data-sharing agreement and connect to NJHIN, all LTC operators in New Jersey must contact: Cesar Rodriguez – Cesar.Rodriguez@njii.com

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What is ECP doing to help communities comply with AB 4476?

ECP supports more than 65 assisted living, personal care, and memory care communities in New Jersey, approximately one in every three communities in the state.

ECP is ONC-certified. You can verify that our certification is still current by visiting our listing on the Federal Certified Health IT Product List. **As of October 2021, we believe ECP is the only primarily AL-focused EHR to be ONC-certified.** For certification information about ECP, please see <https://ecp123.com/certifications/>.

Our compliance and development teams are also in close and regular communication with the leadership and technical teams of the NJII to ensure that the communities we support can use our software to connect to the NJHIN.

What next steps should I take?

If your community already uses ECP's EHR, the only further action you need to take is to contact the NJII contacts (Cesar) to execute a data-sharing agreement if you have not done so already. We are ONC-certified and are working to take care of the data sharing at no extra charge to you.

If you are not an ECP EHR customer, you should check with your current EHR vendor to see if they are ONC-certified and connected to the NJHIN and seek advice from them on how to start sharing data.

Non-ECP EHR customers (including those currently using our eMAR product) looking to purchase ECP to comply with this new regulation are eligible for special pricing to compensate for the challenges of confronting this new requirement during this difficult time for the industry. Contact sales@ecp123.com if you are interested in learning more, and mention NJ AB 4476. In addition, communities implementing or upgrading to a compliant EHR may be eligible for grant funding through the NJII. Reach out to Cesar Rodriguez and ask about grant opportunities (Cesar.Rodriguez@njii.com).

If you have further questions, please reach out to njcompliance@ecp123.com.

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