Patients see improved outcomes and improved overall satisfaction when health information is safely and legally shared between health care providers.

Organizations see improved efficiency and reduced costs when health information is safely and legally shared between health care providers.

In the current environment health care providers are reluctant to share information – even when it is legal – because of confusion over the law and relevant statutes and regulations.

The SHIG represents the State of California’s authoritative (but non-binding) guidance on when, where, and why mental health and substance use disorder information can be exchanged.

The SHIG grew out of comprehensive research, drawing from a broad group of stakeholders to get a clear understanding of the problems different groups were facing in the field.

The SHIG also incorporated feedback from patient and privacy advocacy organizations.

The SHIG is grounded firmly in reality. CalOHII has a clear understanding of the problems that need solutions. It addresses these issues, and does not expend resources addressing issues that are not real problems.

The SHIG utilizes scenarios derived from real user stories to achieve a notable reduction in complexity and confusion, allowing ordinary users to understand how laws and statutes apply to their actual situations.

The SHIG is a first step, laying the groundwork for an ongoing dialogue on how to improve appropriate sharing of health information.