



## Indiana Yellow Dot Program

### *Risk & Benefit Information*

The Yellow Dot program helps first responders access your critical medical information in an emergency, particularly if you are unable to communicate. While participation can be lifesaving, it also includes risks related to privacy and information access.

### Benefits

- **Enables rapid, appropriate medical care.** Yellow Dot alerts first responders to check for your medical information in the glove compartment so that emergency personnel can make informed decisions about your treatment.
- **Aids individuals with complex needs.** The program is especially beneficial for people with chronic medical conditions, special needs, dementia, or severe allergies. It ensures that first responders are aware of conditions that might not be immediately apparent, thereby preventing misdiagnosis or complications. Be sure to include this information on the form.
- **Works when you cannot communicate.** Suppose you are unconscious, confused, or otherwise unable to speak after a crash. In that case, the program communicates vital health details on your behalf.
- **Simple and cost-effective.** For little to no cost, participants receive the necessary materials, which can also be used in emergencies.
- **Provides peace of mind.** Knowing that crucial medical information is readily available for emergency personnel can offer a sense of security for you and your family.

## Risks of the Yellow Dot program

- **Risk of information theft.** Since the sticker is on the driver-side rear window and the information is stored in the glove compartment, it is vulnerable to theft. The materials may be lost if the vehicle is totaled or towed. To reduce this risk do not include your social security number or bank information on this form.
- **Risk to safety.** Since the sticker is on the driver-side rear window, there is a potential safety concern that individuals with malicious intent may recognize the Yellow Dot identifier and target participants based on perceived vulnerabilities, such as deafness, hard of hearing, minors or advanced age. There is a risk of being followed, tracked, or harmed by those seeking to exploit such vulnerabilities.
- **Medical information can become outdated.** The accuracy of the program depends on your keeping the information up to date. If you do not update the card with new medications, surgeries, or other medical changes, it could mislead first responders.
- **Vulnerability in specific emergency scenarios.** Suppose your vehicle is inaccessible (e.g., due to a fire or being submerged in water). In that case, the information in the glove box may be unretrievable or destroyed. It is recommended to also keep this information in a mobile phone if able.
- **Not universally recognized.** While the program is expanding, it is not active in every state. Suppose you are involved in an emergency in a state without a Yellow Dot program. In that case, first responders may not be trained to look for the sticker or folder.
- **Vehicle specific.** The information is only useful to the individuals in the car with the Yellow Dot packet. If your family uses multiple vehicles you may need multiple packets.