

Minnesota Department of Health Certifies ABILITY Network as State's First Health Data Intermediary (HDI)

ABILITY to provide secure communication between healthcare payers and providers

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About ABILITY

ABILITY works to save lives by facilitating information exchange and knowledge-sharing among every participant within the healthcare spectrum – hospitals, physician practices, home care providers, DMEs, and private and government payers – as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In use for more than a decade in more than 3,000 hospitals across the country, ABILITY's network supports healthcare decision makers in their quest to promote care coordination and collaboration, reduce record fragmentation, participate in new and emerging care models, and access the Direct Project network and state and community-based Health Information Exchanges (HIEs). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – June 7, 2011 – ABILITY Network Inc™, the nation's largest and most secure web-based health network, announced today that the State of Minnesota Department of Health has granted it the first-ever certification as a Health Data Intermediary (HDI), charged with providing the infrastructure to streamline the exchange of healthcare data for the benefit of patients, providers and payers.

Through this certification, ABILITY is also authorized to provide the infrastructure to connect computer systems or other electronic devices used by healthcare providers, laboratories, pharmacies, health plans, third-party administrators, or pharmacy benefit managers to facilitate the secure transmission of health information.

“We have demonstrated our commitment to providing secure communications for healthcare providers and payers nationwide through our involvement with multiple Direct pilot projects,” said John Feikema, President of ABILITY, referring to ABILITY's collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology's Direct Project. “With this certification, ABILITY will be able to help healthcare providers and payers throughout Minnesota communicate with each other safely and securely, for the benefit of their patients. Additional benefits are achieved as Direct is tailored to help accelerate compliance with 2011 meaningful use criteria.”

ABILITY was the first in the nation to demonstrate a live Direct-enabled transaction, sending an immunization update from Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis to the Minnesota State Department of Health. That type of Direct-enabled communication – using Direct protocols, which ABILITY helped develop – can be enabled between hospitals, between hospitals and clinics and between clinics and patients all across Minnesota streamlining healthcare data exchange and promising to make improvements in the efficiency and quality of healthcare delivery.