



Advancing Secure Direct Connections Nationwide

DIRECT ABILITY

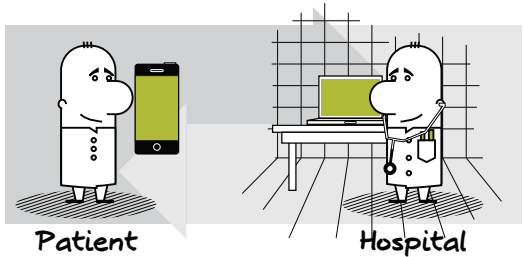
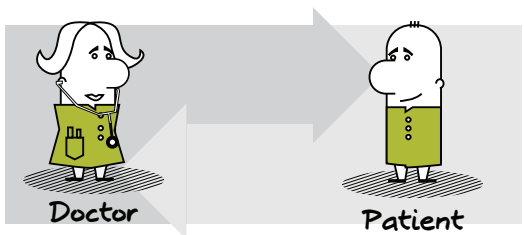
Direct Defined

The Direct Project was designed to help healthcare providers, departments of health, and payers communicate securely, with each other and with their patients, to deliver higher quality and more affordable care. ABILITY has taken a leadership role early on in the Direct Project by contributing significant resources and intelligence toward the Direct architecture, security and trust model, policy guidance, pilot formation and many other areas to support the Project's mission in developing a Nationwide Health Information Network. ABILITY was the first in the country to enable Direct messaging on that network.

Direct allows secure communication of health information among healthcare participants who already know and trust each other. Now when a hospital, clinic or medical group that is part of the ABILITY network wants to send a health-related message to any other Direct-enabled entity, they can do so easily and securely.

To take advantage of this secure national network, many health systems or health information exchanges will need to partner with a Health Information Service Provider (HISP) or become one themselves. ABILITY's product that provides this secure connection to the Nationwide Health Information Network is called DirectABILITY. The service focuses on the transport of health information and can be adopted by organizations or individuals seeking to engage in simple direct point-to-point secure electronic communications.

Whether the communication is between two individuals—such as a physician sending a summary of a patient's medical record to another physician as part of a referral—or an interaction from a machine to an individual—such as a Personal Health Record generating a message that is sent to a physician who opens it and reads it—or where no human interface is needed at all—as in the case of an electronic health record (EHR) that communicates directly with another EHR—the connectivity is simple, secure and streamlined.



Direct helps to simplify the transactions that do not need to be complex. Package attachments, secure them, transport them, validate their receipt – it's that easy!

For more information on DirectABILITY, or to learn how you can get connected, visit <http://www.abilitynetwork.com/services/Direct/>



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Product Features:

- **Secure Webmail** user interface that is easy-to-use for **sending and receiving Protected Health Information (PHI)**, medical records or any other sensitive information
- **Open system** that is universal in communication processes, vendor agnostic communicating with anyone with a user/endpoint addressing and bi-directional routing
- **Secure network** on-ramps that utilize SMTP/POP3, REST API, PHINMS, SFTP, XDR/XDM
- **Intuitive trust** and address management user interface and API
- **Provider directory** capabilities
- **Easy access** to messages—just like email—no need to go to another site with multiple passwords
- **Compatible** with practice management software – no special integration or customization needed
- Public Key Infrastructure (X.509 PKI certificates) **security**
- **Audit assistance** that provides documentation of all DirectABILITY transactions

Client Benefits:

- Simplified training – it functions like email so the learning curve is fast
- Peace of mind – know with confidence the identity of the message sender and trust the message wasn't opened or altered
- Efficiency and consistency – now you can automatically upload a finished record to a Health Information Exchange with the same keystrokes that save it to the practice database and patient EHR
- Control and management of trust relationships for receiving and sending information
- Outperforms fax machines – no longer will you have a record that rests in a fax machine for all to see. Transactions are all electronic and all secure
- Democratizes health information exchange – Rural or urban providers who may lack the resources to invest in infrastructure can communicate and share health information via Direct
- Enables providers to qualify for Meaningful Use – a secure Direct connection qualifies for Meaningful Use dollars for providers to upgrade to the network

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. More than 3,000 hospitals across the country use ABILITY network to promote care coordination and collaboration, reduce record fragmentation, participate in new care models, streamline administrative workflow and access the Direct Project network and state and community-based Health Information Exchanges.