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## **News Release**

**December 13, 2007**

### **Availity Appoints Russ Thomas as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer**

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity, L.L.C., a leading e-health information exchange, today announced the appointment of Russ Thomas as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Effective January 1, 2008, Russ will oversee enterprise-wide operations with additional areas of responsibility to be determined in the near future.

“We are delighted to have Russ join the Availity team in this new role of Chief Operating Officer,” said Julie Klapstein, chief executive officer for Availity. “Russ’s industry experience and operative insight make him an ideal fit for this new role at Availity.”

Prior to joining Availity, Russ served as Chief Executive Officer of Gold Standard, an industry leader in development and distribution of clinical knowledge systems and electronic health information. He currently serves as Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Health Information Exchange and is a founding Board Member of Hillsborough Kids, Inc. which, in concert with the Department of Children and Families, provides care and social services for over 5,000 seriously disadvantaged children in Hillsborough County.

“I am extremely pleased to join Availity in its mission to optimize health information exchange, a fundamental requirement to improve health outcomes and efficiency in the healthcare delivery system,” said Thomas. “Julie and the Availity team have built a superb organization, and I am honored to have this opportunity to contribute.”

Russ earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia Tech and his Juris Doctorate from the University Of Virginia School Of Law.

#### **About Availity, L.L.C. – Patients. Not paperwork.®**

Availity optimizes the flow of information between health care professionals, health plans, and other health care stakeholders through a secure internet-based exchange. The Availity Health Information Network encompasses administrative and clinical services, supports both real-time and batch transactions via the web and electronic data interchange (EDI), and is HIPAA compliant. Availity is the recipient of several national and regional awards, including Consumer Directed Healthcare, A.S.A.P. Alliance Innovation, eHealthcare Leadership, Northeast Florida Excellence in IT Leadership, E-Fusion, Emerging Technologies and Healthcare Innovations for Excellence (TETHIE), and AstraZeneca-NMHCC Partnership. For more information, including an online demonstration, visit [www.availity.com](http://www.availity.com) or call 800.AVAILITY (282.4548).