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## **News Release**

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### **Availity Partners with Florida Hospital Healthcare System *Providers now have access to real-time patient eligibility and benefits information***

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity, L.L.C., a leading provider of e-health transaction services, has partnered with the Florida Hospital Healthcare System (“FHHS”), a health plan as well as a fully integrated delivery system. The partnership enables providers to access real-time FHHS patient Eligibility and Benefits data within the Availity® Gateway, a secure web transaction portal.

“By utilizing the Availity e-health services, our providers will have instant access to patient data, thereby eliminating the time and cost associated with telephones and fax machines. Likewise it will enhance the patient experience by streamlining the administrative verification in the provider’s office,” states Barbara Linder, executive director for FHHS.

FHHS processes more than 400,000 claims per year and maintains a client base of more than 40,000 members per month. Members who contract with FHHS have access to a comprehensive three-county (Orange, Osceola, and Seminole) network that includes more than 1,000 physicians, 7 Florida Hospital Facilities, 13 Centra Care walk-in medical centers, and multiple ancillary providers.

“We are delighted to have FHHS join the Availity network of health plans,” says Stephen Dougherty, Availity’s alliance manager. “Its size, depth, and name recognition exude stability.”

#### **About Availity – Patients. Not paperwork.®**

Availity optimizes the flow of information between health care providers, health plans, and other health care stakeholders through a secure Internet-based exchange. The Availity® Gateway supports both real-time web and batch electronic data interchange (EDI) transactions, is committed to complying with HIPAA regulations, and has proven to be fast and efficient. Availity health plan transactions are free to providers. Value-added services include credentialing data maintenance, also free to providers, and online prescription refill authorizations. Availity is the recipient of the 2004 ITFlorida Excellence in IT Leadership for NE Florida Award, 2003 and 2004 eHealthcare Leadership Awards, the 2003 E-Fusion Award, the 2003 TETHIE Award, and the 2003 AstraZeneca-NMHCC Partnership Award. For more information, including an online demonstration of the Availity Gateway, visit [www.availity.com](http://www.availity.com) or call 1.800.AVAILITY (282.4548).