



**Contact**  
David Johnson  
904.470.4910  
david.johnson@availity.com

## **News Release**

**July 19, 2004**

### **Availity Partners with The State of Florida Department of Health *Florida's 67 counties to submit electronic claims through the Availity® Gateway***

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity, L.L.C., a leading provider of e-health transaction services, has partnered with The State of Florida Department of Health ("Department") to be the Department's gateway for the transmission of all commercial claims to almost 1,000 health plans. Approximately half of the counties are currently enrolled with Availity and sending electronic claims and it is expected that the remaining counties will come online by the end of the year.

This initiative began to accommodate HIPAA requirements for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, but has wider value in that the solution is allowing all Florida county health departments to eliminate a large volume of claims previously submitted by paper to insurance carriers. The Availity Gateway, which is a secure web portal, offers a suite of health care transactions with multiple health plans, including eligibility and benefits inquiries, authorizations and referrals, claim status inquiries, claim submission, and remittance advice retrieval.

"This is a win-win situation for the State," said Bob Pruyn, HCMS program administrator, Office of Planning and Data Analysis in Tallahassee. "The business model calls for no charge to the County Health Departments for processing their claims. The claims should pay more quickly and generate a cost savings to the State of Florida."

"Availity and The Department have assembled an impressive team," stated Julie Klapstein, Availity CEO. "It has been a pleasure working with such capable people on this very large and important project."

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

Availity optimizes the flow of information between Florida 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 2003 AstraZeneca-NMHCC Partnership Award, the 2003 TETHIE Award, the 2003 E-Fusion Award, and the 2003 eHealthcare Leadership 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).