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News Release

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Availity Receives 2003 A.M. Best E-Fusion Award

Award recognizes online portal that reduces costs, time, and paperwork

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity, L.L.C. was named recipient of the second annual A.M. Best Co. E-Fusion Award for its online portal, the Availity® Gateway, which connects Florida-based physicians, hospitals, clearinghouses, and other health care professionals with insurers. The award, presented at A.M. Best's Insurance & Technology conference September 30 at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, recognizes outstanding, resourceful uses of Internet technology by an insurance organization.

"Receiving the award demonstrates that a small team can accomplish big things in the industry," stated Julie Klapstein, CEO of Availity. "It is possible to lower costs and improve health care across the country. The award competition was amazing and we are honored to be the recipient."

The Availity Gateway securely processes transactions for multiple health plans, including inquiries for patient eligibility and benefits, referrals, authorizations, claim submissions, and claim status inquiries – all at no cost to physicians and other health care professionals. "As of September, more than 1.4 million HIPAA compliant transactions were processed through the Gateway, which is the highest volume of HIPAA compliant transactions for any e-commerce network in the country," claimed Pat Kennedy, PJ Consulting, Inc.

Health care providers can now send their claims to more than 1,000 health plans through the Gateway. "More than 9,000 physician offices and all 208 hospitals in Florida currently transact with their health plans through Availity," says Klapstein. "It is Availity's mission to reduce administrative costs, streamline provider workflow, and ultimately enhance the patient experience."

Availity was selected from an initial field of 97 entries. "I was impressed with the increased amount of diversity among the entries this year, which is reflective of the diversity in the industry," said Paul Tinnirello, A.M. Best executive vice president/chief information officer and conference chairman. "It's refreshing to see so much leveraging of technology with business values associated with each project."

About A.M. Best

A.M. Best Company, established in 1899, is a leading provider of ratings, news, data, and financial information for the global insurance industry. Best's Ratings are recognized worldwide as the benchmark for assessing insurers' financial strength and reflect an in-depth knowledge of the insurance industry developed during its 100-year relationship with the business.

About Availity – Patients. Not paperwork.SM

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, and the 2003 E-Fusion Award. For more information, including an online demonstration of the Availity Gateway, visit www.availity.com or call 1.800.AVAILITY (282.4548).