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News Release**August 17, 2004****Availity Receives 2004 ITFlorida Excellence Award***Availity Presented with Excellence in IT Leadership Award for Northeast Florida*

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Availity was the recipient of the *2004 Northeast Florida Excellence in IT Leadership* award during ITFlorida's annual Awards Gala last week. The award recognizes an outstanding business or initiative for exceptional leadership in furthering the use of IT to successfully advance economic, social, or technical development in Florida. Availity created an online transaction portal that enables physician offices, hospitals, and third party administrators to transact in real-time in a secure, HIPAA-compliant manner with multiple health insurance companies. Since its inception in 2001, the company has registered more than 11,000 Florida physician offices and all 208 Florida hospitals, which use the portal nearly every day.

"There are forward-thinking companies and talented individuals from all over the state developing IT solutions to solve critical business challenges and to enhance our way of life. The Gala provides us with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate these achievements," said Rick Kearney, Chair of ITFlorida. "Our Gala really is a showcase for the entire state and encompasses private, public, and government sectors; small to large companies; and all types of industries, from health care to space travel."

The event, which was attended by more than 150 of Florida's leading IT professionals, provides an opportunity for the tech community to recognize outstanding IT achievements from throughout the state. In all, 11 awards were presented during an evening kicked off by a lively keynote address from NASA's David Lavery, Head of Mars Exploration Rovers missions. A day-long Tech Forum, featuring Governor Jeb Bush, was to follow the Awards Gala but was rescheduled due to Hurricane Charley.

ITFlorida appointed a select group of IT professionals to serve on a panel to review the nominations and elect a winner for each category. ITFlorida is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents Florida's diverse information technology communities on a statewide basis. The organization fills the need for a single statewide advocacy organization to represent Florida's IT-related technology sectors.

"This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of a phenomenal team of individuals," stated Julie Klapstein, CEO of Availity. "By responding to the demands of the market, we've developed a solution that's improving the delivery of health care in Florida and elsewhere."

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, the 2003 eHealthcare Leadership Award, and the 2004 ITFlorida Excellence in IT Leadership Award for Northeast Florida. For more information, including an online demonstration of the Availity Gateway, visit www.availity.com or call 1.800.AVAILITY (282.4548).