



# Texas Direct

*A Service of the Integrated Care Collaboration*



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What is Texas Direct and how does it work?***

- Texas Direct is a secure, web-based clinical messaging tool available to Texas providers
- It allows the exchange of patient data between disparate health care systems
- Accessed through an online portal, Texas Direct functions like traditional webmail, however, no additional encryption or security certificates are necessary to maintain HIPAA compliance

### ***Is Texas Direct a Health Information Exchange?***

Texas Direct is a form of health information exchange (HIE) that meets Stage One Meaningful Use requirements for HIE. Texas Direct represents the first step in achieving full, standards-based health information exchange.

### ***Does it meet Meaningful Use?***

Texas Direct meets Stage One Meaningful Use requirements for health information exchange allowing providers the opportunity to receive incentive payments from Medicare and Medicaid.

### ***Is an EHR necessary to participate?***

An EHR is not required to participate in Texas Direct. The secure exchange is web-based and operates independently from a provider's EHR. Texas Direct is encouraged for physicians both with and without EHR.

### ***What are the benefits of Texas Direct?***

- Features the ability to attach clinical documents and referrals
- Connects to a broad range of providers through Texas Direct's Provider Directory
- Provides mobile, physician to physician messaging in a HIPAA compliant manner
- Replaces traditional faxing methods
- Referring physicians are able to reach you electronically and more efficiently

### ***How is Texas Direct different from traditional faxing?***

Texas Direct is secure, HIPAA compliant, and a green alternative to traditional faxing. Physicians are able to send clinical documents through their computers instead of spending time sorting through papers at the fax machine. Texas Direct also improves communication by creating an electronic record of clinical care activities.

### ***What costs are associated with Texas Direct?***

Texas Direct offers providers a low risk/high return means of improving patient care. The cost of implementing Texas Direct includes a minimal set-up fee of \$100 per provider along with a \$15 per month per provider service fee. Group discounts are available.

## **How do I sign up?**

To register for Texas Direct, visit the Integrated Care Collaboration's website, [www.icc-centex.org](http://www.icc-centex.org). On the homepage, there is a link to the ***Texas Direct Participant Agreement***. Sign and complete this document to be contacted by one of our Implementers.

If you have further questions, please contact us at [info@icc-centex.org](mailto:info@icc-centex.org).