

Direct is a secure and HIPAA-compliant tool for communication, often embedded in technology you already use. Direct allows the right information to be communicated at the right time to better coordinate patient care.

## Benefits of connecting with VA using Direct:

- Allows VA and non-VA providers to send and receive a variety of VA patient information depending on a particular department's workflow needs.
- Ensures a secure method for sending / receiving VA patient referrals and sharing VA patient health information.
- Improves efficiency and alleviates the burden of administrative tasks, such as phone calling, faxing, mailing, encrypting email or hand-delivering health information.
- Improves coordination of VA patient care.

## How to start sharing with VA using Direct:

### Step 1. Contact the VA Direct Team

Send an introductory email to the VA Direct Team [VADirectInfo@va.gov](mailto:VADirectInfo@va.gov) expressing your interest in sharing Direct messages with VA.

### Step 2. Discuss Your Current Direct Capabilities

Inform the VA Direct Team of your organization's electronic health record, current sharing capabilities, and everyday workflows using Direct, if applicable.

### Step 3. Establish and Test Your Connection

Coordinate with the VA Direct Team to send and receive test messages with various attachment types (i.e., payloads) such as health summaries / Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs) and .pdf files.

### Step 4. Align Workflows with VA

Discuss with the VA Direct team the best ways to integrate Direct into your everyday workflows between your organization and VA.



For additional information, visit the VA Direct section at [Why Partner with VHIE at va.gov/VHIE](https://va.gov/VHIE) or email [VADirectInfo@va.gov](mailto:VADirectInfo@va.gov).