

# NHIN DIRECT

NHIN Direct specifies a **simple, secure, scalable, standards-based** way for participants to **send** encrypted health information **directly** to **known**, trusted recipients over the **Internet**.

**simple** NHIN Direct doesn't target complex scenarios, like a patient who can't identify herself; it's about the simple push of information. Its goal is to replace today's manual exchange methods with an alternative that's more secure and better positioned to eventually accommodate more sophisticated behaviors.

**secure** NHIN Direct includes ways to make sure that exchanged messages are complete, are exchanged only between entities who are who they say they are, and that aren't read or tampered with as they travel.

**scalable** NHIN Direct doesn't require pre-negotiation with your potential trading partners. Just like you can send an e-mail to anyone in the world, you can send an NHIN Direct message to anyone with an NHIN Direct address.

**standards-based** NHIN Direct makes use of common Internet protocols for secure e-mail communication. Beyond e-mail, it supports exchange based on established communication profiles for health information.

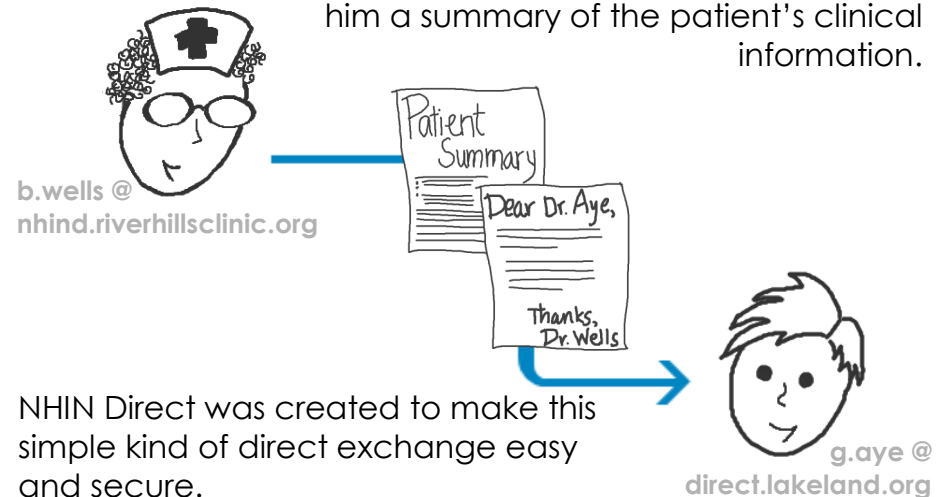
**send** NHIN Direct focuses on the *push* of data, from a sender who has it to a receiver who needs it.

**directly** NHIN Direct doesn't rely on a central repository or registry to keep track of patient information. Instead information is transferred directly from Sender to Receiver.

**known** NHIN Direct keeps it simple by assuming that a sender knows the NHIN Direct address of her potential receiver, by some out-of-band means.

**Internet** NHIN Direct uses common Internet standards, policies, structures, and conventions for sending data.

Dr. B. Wells is referring a patient to Dr. G Aye, a nearby specialist. She'd like to send him a summary of the patient's clinical information.



NHIN Direct was created to make this simple kind of direct exchange easy and secure.

## To learn more,

how it works ▫ scenarios it covers ▫ how to get started ▫ standards it uses ▫ what it means for existing exchanges ▫ ways to get involved

go to <http://nhindirect.org>