



Mass HIway Newsletter

July 2021

For more information, visit www.masshiway.net

Connection Requirement and Attestation Period Begins Aug. 2

On Monday, Aug. 2, provider organizations can start submitting attestation/exception forms regarding their efforts to meet the HIway Connection Requirement in 2020. Provider Organizations must make their attestation submission through the online webforms (PDF forms will not be accepted). On Aug. 2, the HIway will send an email with a link to the webforms and detailed instructions.

All organizations required to meet the Connection Requirement by January 1, 2021 (that is, all acute care hospitals, community health centers, and medium/large medical ambulatory practices) must submit an attestation form to the Mass HIway by **October 31, 2021**. If an organization was unable to meet the Connection Requirement, it must submit a Health Information Exchange Exception Form to the HIway.

For more information, see the [FAQs](#) regarding the Mass HIway Regulations and Connection Requirement. You can also find detailed information about the regulations, including educational presentations, [here](#).

You can also submit questions directly to the Mass HIway team at MassHIway@state.ma.us.

[Learn More About Mass HIway Attestation and the Connection Requirements](#)

Update to the HIway Connection Requirement

Starting in attestation year 2021, the HIway has updated the Connection Requirement so that if both the sender and receiver use a DirectTrust-accredited HISP, that use case can be used to meet the Connection Requirement. Many EHR systems include a DirectTrust-accredited HISP that can send Direct Messages from within the EHR. For a list of DirectTrust-accredited HISPs, click [here](#).

Organizations that previously submitted Health Information Exchange Exception Forms because they used non-Mass HIway Direct Messaging may now be able to attest to meeting the HIway Connection Requirement. For instance, consider the following use cases where both organizations use DirectTrust-accredited HISPs.

Examples of meeting the Connection Requirement through a DirectTrust-accredited HISP

- A Community Health Center (CHC) was unable to attest to the Hlway Connection Requirement last year and submitted an exception form because the CHC did not utilize the Mass Hlway Direct Messaging System. As part of its referral process, primary care providers (PCPs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) use Surescripts Direct Messaging to send their patients' medication lists to affiliated medical specialty offices. After a referred patient is seen by a specialist, a consult note is sent back to the PCP/NP via Surescripts. Because the Surescripts HISP is accredited by DirectTrust and used by both providers, the CHC will be able to attest to meeting the Hlway Connection Requirement in attestation year 2021.
- In prior years a CHC submitted an exception form because they were not using the Mass Hlway to send/receive with trading partners. The CHC regularly sends dental referrals from their eClinicalWorks EHR to an ambulatory practice's NextGen EHR through eClinicalDirect. Because eClinicalDirect and NextGen are both DirectTrust-accredited HISPs, the CHC can use this use case to attest to meeting the Hlway Connection Requirement for the first time in 2021.

For more information

If you have any questions, please contact your Mass Hlway Account Manager or email masshiway@state.ma.us.

List of DirectTrust-accredited HISPs

Explore the Resources Available on the Mass Hlway Website



The [Mass Hlway](#) website offers a wide variety of features to provide the Massachusetts healthcare community with easy access to Health Information Exchange (HIE) information, education, and services. To assist organizations in their HIE efforts, the website showcases:

- The Hlway's support for Direct Messaging, Query HIE, HAUS, ENS, and more
- An extensive set of informative and educational HIE resources
- A library of use cases and spotlight stories highlighting HIE successes
- Provider Directory 2.0 with Direct Addresses of providers in Massachusetts
- Resources for meeting, and attesting to, the Mass Hlway Regulations

Visit the Mass Hlway Website

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