



Mass HIway Newsletter

June 2021

For more information, visit www.masshiway.net

Update to the HIway Connection Requirement

Currently, provider organizations subject to the HIway Connection Requirement must implement use cases by sending and receiving Direct Messages to other provider organizations via the Mass HIway Direct Messaging System (i.e., a Mass HIway Direct Address).

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. Most 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 HIway Connection Requirement last year and submitted an exception form because the CHC did not utilize the Mass HIway 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 HIway Connection Requirement in attestation year 2021.
- In prior years a CHC submitted an exception form because they were not using the Mass HIway 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 HIway Connection Requirement for the first time in 2021.

For more information

Please watch your inbox for invitations to upcoming webinars. In addition, the updated attestation/exception PDF forms will be available in July and the online form will be available in August. **This year, the deadline to submit attestation/exception forms is October 31st.** If you have any questions, please contact your Mass Hlway Account Manager or email masshiway@state.ma.us.

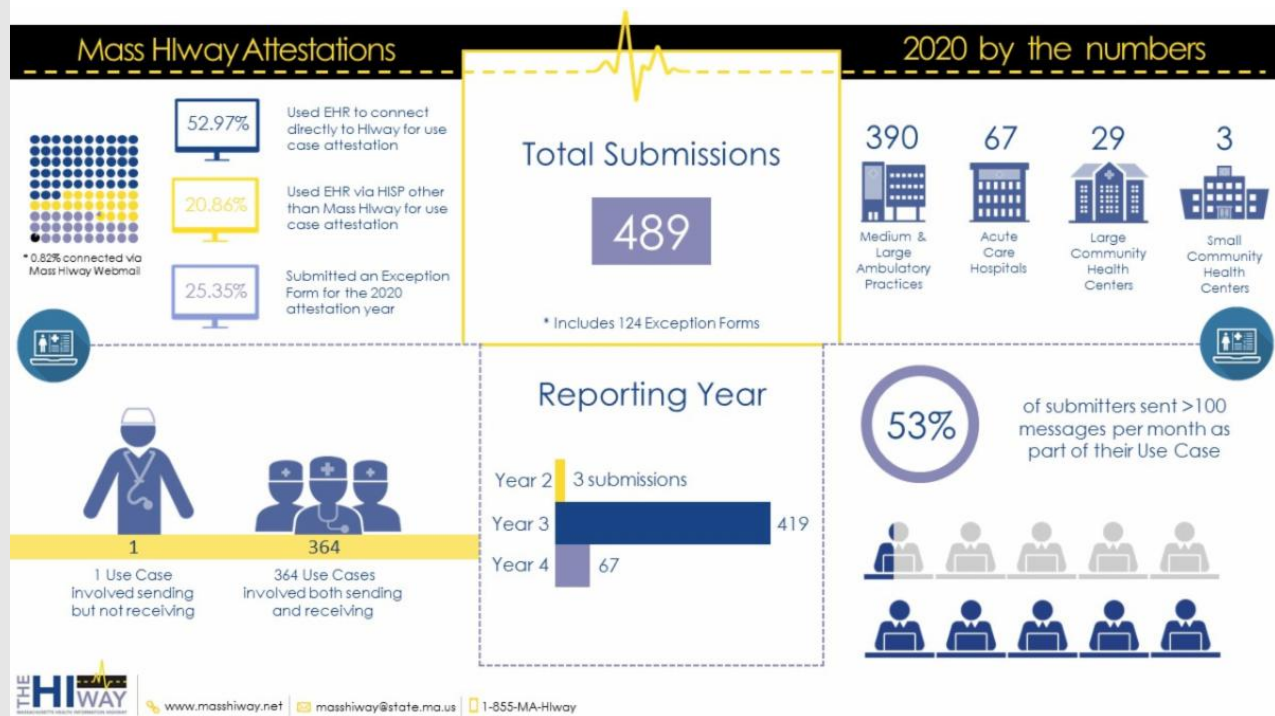
List of DirectTrust-accredited HISPs

Learn more about the connection requirement update

2020 Attestation by the Numbers

Nearly 500 organizations submitted attestation or exception forms during the 2020 attestation period. Small Community Health Centers were in year two of the Connection Requirement cycle, Medium/Large Ambulatory Practices and Large Community Health Centers were in year three, and Acute Care Hospitals were in year four.

Click to expand the infographic below and see how many organizations submitted forms, whether they sent and/or received messages, whether they used the Mass Hlway directly or indirectly, and the number of messages sent in 2020.



Upcoming Webinar: 2021 Attestation and Connection Requirement

The Hlway's regulations (101 CMR 20.00) require all Acute Care Hospitals, Community Health Centers, and Medium/Large Medical Ambulatory Practices to submit documentation attesting to their compliance with the Hlway Connection Requirement by October 31. As a part of the attestation process, Acute Care Hospitals also must provide information regarding compliance with the requirement to submit Admission Discharge Transfer data (ADTs) to a Certified ENS Vendor participating in the Statewide Event Notification Service Framework. During this webinar, participants will have the opportunity to learn about Connection Requirement (including the mandate to submit ADTs). The webinar will feature recent updates and a tutorial on how to submit attestation forms online. Presenters will also address commonly asked questions regarding the attestation process.

Tuesday, July 20, 2021
12-1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

New PD Template Available

A Provider Directory is a listing of healthcare providers' Direct Addresses and other identifying information, such as physical address, phone number, and practice name. This information enables providers to search for the correct practitioner in order to send and receive Protected Health Information. These directories are typically provided by HISP and EHR vendors and may include providers your healthcare organization does not work with regularly.

To have an accurate Provider Directory for all HIway participants (PD 2.0), we need each organization with a "masshiway.net" Direct Address to complete template forms. To add new information to PD 2.0, providers must fill in all three forms. To update information already in PD 2.0, update only the relevant forms affected by the change. The links below directly download the updated forms, which have new instructions for some of the fields to be completed.

[Download to update your information](#)

Download the appropriate forms and specification sheets to update your information in PD 2.0.

If your HIway-participating organization has:

- Sub-organizations that you would like to list separately in PD 2.0, click [here](#). (**updated 5/13/21**)
- No sub-organizations to list separately, click [here](#). (**updated 5/13/21**)

Submit completed forms to MassHIway@state.ma.us.

If you need assistance with completing the forms from your HIway Account Manager, contact the Mass HIway at:

- 1-855-MA-HIway (option 2: support)
- Email: MassHIway@state.ma.us

[Learn More About PD 2.0 and Review the PD 2.0 Webinar Recording](#)

HIT in the News

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xtelligent HEALTHCARE MEDIA

[ONC establishes](#) public health IT workforce development program

**EHR
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[CommonWell](#) adds vendor to boost interoperability, data exchange

Healthcare IT News

[ONC releases](#) draft of address standardization specification

[More FQHC](#) docs report
physician burnout than
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