





VA Direct is a secure electronic messaging system that allows users at any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System nationwide to share patient health information with external providers who are a part of the [DirectTrust Network](#).

## Benefits of Using VA Direct

-  Allows VA to send and receive a variety of patient information depending on a particular department's workflow needs
-  Improves coordination of VA Patient care
-  Ensures a secure method for sharing VA Patient appointment and chart note health data
-  Alleviate the burden of administrative tasks such as faxing, mailing, encrypting email or hand-delivering health information

## How to Start Sharing with VA Through Direct

### Step 1. Contact the VA Direct Team

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

### Step 2. Discuss Your Current Capabilities

Inform the VA Direct Team of your organization's current sharing capabilities and everyday workflows using Direct Messaging and whether your organization is already a member of the [DirectTrust Network](#).

### Step 3. Establish and Test Your Connection

Coordinate with the VA Direct Team to send and receive test messages with various attachment (i.e., payload) types, such as health summaries (i.e., C-CDAs) and .pdf files.

### Step 4. Align Workflows with VA

Discuss the best ways to integrate Direct Messaging into your everyday workflow with the VA Direct Team.



For VA Patients seeking additional information, please visit [FAQs for VA Patients](#)