



**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Darice Plaskett, RN, MSA, FACHE  
Acting Commissioner**

Ph. 340-776-8311 ext. 5080  
Fax 340-777-4001  
48 Sugar Estate  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Ph. 340-773-1311 x3000  
Fax 340-773-1376  
Charles Harwood Complex  
St. Croix, USVI 00820

## **PRESS RELEASE**

July 6, 2012

**CONTACT:** Eunice Bedminster  
(340) 773-1311, Ext. 3171 or 626-1653

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO HOST WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL SERIES ON SECURE EXCHANGE OF DATA FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

The Health Information Technology Division under the VI Department of Health and responsible for implementing the Territory's Health Information Exchange (HIE) Project will host a series of webinars on secure data exchange for health care providers.

The five part series will begin at 9 a.m. on July 17 and will be held biweekly through September 11, 2012. The hour-long webinar series will cover use cases and provide training to providers on how to begin using Direct, a nationally recognized standard for secure exchange of health information that provides a simple, secure and standards-based method for electronic exchange of health information among health care providers, according to HIT Director Kevin Hodge.

Secure Exchange Solutions, a certified Health Information Service Provider (HISP), which is providing the exchange solution for the Virgin Islands' HIE will co-host the webinar series.

Hodge said that the Direct methodology "ultimately saves money and improves quality of care and patient care coordination and is particularly accommodating to those providers that do not have the resources or technical capacity to engage in more complicated and expensive methods of health information exchange."

Acting Commissioner Darice Plaskett is urging all health care providers to take advantage of this free webinar. "The Department of Health expects to launch its Direct-based Health Information Exchange (HIE) project by year's end and as we work towards the project's initiation, we are excited to offer our provider community a series of five educational webinars on the benefits of Direct and how to get started with secure health information exchange." Plaskett said.

Healthcare providers should call the Department of Health to register by calling 773-1311, Ext. 3009 or visit [www.healthvi.org](http://www.healthvi.org) and download an application. Completed applications can be faxed to 718-3179. A limited number of seats are available for

persons that wish to participate but do not have internet/telephone access. Call or send in the registration form by fax to reserve a seat as soon as possible.

### **WEBINAR SCHEDULE**

#### **July 17, 2012**

- Direct 101: Overview of nationally recognized methodology of Direct;

#### **July 31, 2012**

- Direct Live!: Learn how Direct is being used live in provider settings, hospitals, labs and more;

#### **August 14, 2012**

- Direct and Your Practice Workflow: Integrating Direct into Current Workflows and Systems;

#### **August 28, 2012**

- Using Direct for Behavioral Health and Immunization Reporting: Understand how Direct can improve outcomes;

#### **September 11, 2012**

- Get Started!: Signing Up and Using Direct.