

## Cloud File Services for Internet2 Health

### 1. Health care providers using Internet2 constitute a unique market segment.

Rural health networks in six states have connected to the Internet2 Network, and rural networks in seven more states are expected to connect before the end of this year.

Today approximately 1000 hospitals and clinics are leveraging Internet2 bandwidth. That number should grow significantly in the next couple years through the RHCPP, BTOP, and U.S. UCAN programs.

### 2. Online data backup would be a prime service for health care providers on Internet2.

Small hospitals and clinics have limited IT staff and often depend upon old technology. Their data backup processes are frequently time-consuming, insecure, and unreliable. A convenient, affordable data backup solution would be compelling, especially when bandwidth for the last mile connection is not capped. Health care providers are most likely to adopt online data backup that satisfies the following conditions:

- Data security meets and exceeds HIPAA guidelines.
- Data transport is ultra fast – **Internet2 makes this possible.**
- Transported data can be tracked like a Fed Ex package.
- Existing datasets are large, e.g. an EHR or PACS database.
- The cost is affordable.

### 3. Other cloud services could be added later.

A cloud service provider would have the option of adding services unique to the health sector. Health IT practitioners expect that a new entity, the Health Information Service Provider (HISP), will manage file transfers including ones that require special protocols like DICOM. A “full-service” HISP could also enable interoperable data exchange using specifications from the Direct Project and the NwHIN CONNECT Gateway.