CLAIMS

We claim:

1. At a computer system including at least a processor and a memory, a computer-implemented method for providing remote healthcare services, the method comprising:

receiving an input from a first healthcare entity that includes one or more authentication credentials, the input requesting assistance from at least a second healthcare entity;

authenticating the first healthcare entity using the authentication credentials received from the first healthcare entity;

receiving an input from the second healthcare entity, the input including one or more authentication credentials identifying the second healthcare entity as one authorized to perform specified healthcare functions;

authenticating the second healthcare entity using the authentication credentials received from the second healthcare entity;

receiving real-time information related to a health condition of at least one patient, the real-time health condition information being provided to the second healthcare entity;

receiving, from the second healthcare entity, one or more portions of diagnostic information related to the patient's health condition;

providing the received diagnostic information to at least one of the following: the first healthcare entity, the patient and a third party payment entity;

receiving an indication from the third-party payment entity that at least one specified medication has been paid for;

providing an indication to the first healthcare entity indicating that the specified medication has been paid for, such that the first healthcare entity can provide the medication to the patient; and

notifying the second healthcare entity that the patient received the medication.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the real-time health condition information to the second healthcare entity comprises streaming images or video from the first healthcare entity to the second healthcare entity.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the diagnostic information is provided by a doctor or a nurse.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more messages are transferred between the first healthcare entity and the second healthcare entity using a messenger application.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the messages are transmitted in a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant manner.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the diagnostic information is included in at least one of the messages transferred between the first healthcare entity and the second healthcare entity using the messenger application.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second healthcare entity maintains contact with the patient using a messenger application.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the messenger application allows the second healthcare entity to follow-up on the patient's prescription compliance.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some portion of the diagnostic information is stored in a HIPAA-compliant manner.

10. A computer system comprising the following:

one or more processors;

system memory;

one or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the computing system to perform a method for facilitating a third-party healthcare payment, the method comprising the following:

receiving an input from a healthcare entity identifying at least one healthcare item that is to be paid for by a third party, the healthcare entity being authenticated to a third-party healthcare payment service;

sending an indication of the at least one identified healthcare item to the third party for payment;

receiving authorization from the third party to pay for the at least one identified healthcare item;

initiating a transaction conducted by the third-party healthcare payment service, the transaction allowing the third party to pay for the at least one identified healthcare item; and

notifying the third party that the transaction is complete and that the at least one identified healthcare item has been paid for; and

notifying the healthcare entity that the patient received the healthcare item.

11. The computer system of claim 10, further comprising notifying at least one beneficiary that the at least one healthcare item has been paid for by the third party.

12. The computer system of claim 10, further comprising instantiating a secure messaging service that is configured to notify the third party that the transaction is complete and that the at least one identified healthcare item has been paid for.

13. The computer system of claim 10, wherein authorization from the third party to pay for the at least one identified healthcare item is received upon the third party determining that the healthcare entity has submitted a proper diagnosis.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the third-party healthcare payment service facilitates payments between third parties and banking or credit institutions.

15. A computer system comprising the following:

one or more processors;

system memory;

one or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the computing system to perform a method for providing remote healthcare services, the method comprising the following:

receiving an input from a first healthcare entity that includes one or more authentication credentials, the input requesting assistance from at least a second healthcare entity;

authenticating the first healthcare entity using the authentication credentials received from the first healthcare entity;

receiving an input from the second healthcare entity, the input including one or more authentication credentials identifying the second healthcare entity as one authorized to perform specified healthcare functions;

authenticating the second healthcare entity using the authentication credentials received from the second healthcare entity;

receiving real-time information related to a health condition of at least one patient, the real-time health condition information being provided to the second healthcare entity;

receiving, from the second healthcare entity, one or more portions of diagnostic information related to the patient's health condition;

providing the received diagnostic information to at least one of the following: the first healthcare entity, the patient and a third party payment entity;

receiving an indication from the third-party payment entity that at least one specified medication has been paid for;

providing an indication to the first healthcare entity indicating that the specified medication has been paid for, such that the first healthcare entity can provide the medication to the patient; and

notifying the second healthcare entity that the patient received the medication.

16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein a messenger application communicates the diagnostic information from the second healthcare entity to the first healthcare entity, the diagnostic information being communicated in a HIPAA-compliant manner.

17. A computer program product for implementing a method for providing a remote diagnostic for a patient, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors of a computing system, cause the computing system to perform the method, the method comprising:

receiving an input from a user that includes one or more authentication credentials corresponding to the user;

transmitting the received authentication credentials to a remote diagnostic service;

receiving real-time information related to a health condition of at least one remotely-located patient;

providing one or more portions of diagnostic information related to the patient's health condition to the remote diagnostic service for distribution to other healthcare entities, to the remotely-located patient or to a payment entity; and

notifying the user that the remote diagnostic service has received the one or more portions of diagnostic information related to the patient's health condition .