

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

NEW TECHNOLOGY PROVIDING
NEW MODEL OF CARE

HEALTH LEADERS TOUR

"SMART" - Diabetes initiative
to help Hawkes Bay GP'sTEST SAFE - An integrated
information systemCHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS
GROUP UPDATEPROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
OFFICE UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

LINKS

HISAC

Health Information Strategy Action
Committee (HISAC)
Link to website for the latest news
– <http://www.hisac.govt.nz>

Health IT Cluster (HITC)

Link to website for the latest news
– <http://www.healthit.org.nz>

FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK ON THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any comments, article
ideas for the next newsletter, please
contact Amanda Newton by email:
amanda_newton@nzhis.govt.nz

Many thanks to all those people who
have contributed to this newsletter.

UNSUBSCRIBE

TO UNSUBSCRIBE...

If you would prefer not to receive this
newsletter in the future please send
an email to this effect to Amanda
Newton :
amanda_newton@nzhis.govt.nz

EDITORIAL

Debbie Chin, Deputy Director-General Corporate & Information Directorate



Welcome to the new look Health e-News.

This Christmas edition is a timely reminder the holiday season is a time for family gatherings, recreation and a well-deserved rest.

However, before we head off to visit friends and family or break out the summer barbecue, I would like to reflect on what we have achieved this year and what challenges lay ahead for the next calendar year.

Recently I led the Health Leaders Tour group that visited England, Scotland, Denmark, the US and Canada. We were constantly asked why we were visiting them when we were the envy of other countries. To put it into perspective 'the colour of distance' provides the proof of the pudding!

According to the Commonwealth Fund 2006 International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians in seven countries (NZ, Australia, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany, Canada and the United States) information management of the Health and Disability Sector in New Zealand is well ahead of our closest counterparts in the other countries.

This is an exciting period of substantive advancement for New Zealand and we have achieved so much this year. This edition of Health e-News highlights just a few of these achievements. Others include:



- The win of the TUANZ Innovation award for the National Immunisation Register (NIR) touted as the "first of its kind in the world". This achievement recognises the dedication and hard work that has been carried out across the whole sector, a good example of innovation and collaboration.
- A winner of one of the New Zealand Health Innovation Awards, was the West Coast District Health Board for their Primary Integration Systems Management (PrISM) initiative.
- The four winners of this year's Ministry of Health Sharing Excellence in Health and Disability Information Management Awards were, Webhealth - Linkage Trust, Healthline - McKesson (NZ) Ltd; Demand Management Project - New Zealand Blood Service and Integrated Query Engine - Wellington Independent Practitioners Association.
- The launch of a new national data collecting the National Non-Admitted Patient Collection. This has laid the foundation for collecting nationally consistent data on non-admitted patient activity, in the first phase collection information on patients presenting to Emergency Departments and some Outpatient Departments.

EDITORIAL...continued

Debbie Chin, Deputy Director-General Corporate & Information Directorate

- The Health Practitioner Index (HPI), another major achievement this year, again involving collaboration from across the sector. Data has now been loaded into the HPI from the Medical Council, the Pharmacy Council and the Dental Council. Over the next six months work will continue to load all other Registration Authority data.
- Increased quality within the National Health Index (NHI), bought about by a work programme linking mother and baby information. The quality has increased from 83% to 96%.

These are great results and as a sector we can stand tall and be proud but there are always opportunities for greater advancement and a need to improve. I am sure that next year we will see a more concerted effort by all focusing on the key priorities and challenges.

The key challenges ahead for the Health and Disability Sector are to: reduce health inequalities focusing on priorities; strengthening the shift in balance towards early intervention and disease prevention through primary health care; maintaining the emphasis on using health resources to best effect; strengthening workforce flexibility – different roles and improving the health infrastructure, particularly information management.

Thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

Seasons greetings - have a Merry Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Debbie



HOME



PREVIOUS



NEXT

New Technology Providing New Model of Care

Nurse Maude Association and Capital Coast District Health Board

Anushiya Ayingaran, General Manager Corporate Services, Nurse Maude Association

New technology is underpinning a new model of care being provided by the Nurse Maude Association.

The Association has a history spanning more than a hundred years of community health services in the Canterbury region. In a new move, last year it was contracted by Capital & Coast DHB to establish its Care Coordination Centre – a new service integrating care in the community and home through a single entry point.

It replaces the multiple points of entry for referrals for home and community care and will hold the care plan for the consumer.

Anushiya Ayingaran, Nurse Maude's General Manager Corporate Services, says, 'This is a first in the sector to bring all community health services with a focus on clients at the core and use of new technology applications has been pivotal to its implementation.'

The Centre employs 12 Care Managers who are responsible for providing comprehensive community assessment. The team is fully mobile with laptops and T3G connection to access information from anywhere. The assessment and care planning information is then shared electronically with GPs, providers and other relevant health professionals which has received positive feedback. The Care Coordination Centre also has access to the DHB's

hospital patient management and clinical record systems.

The centre is also trialling InterRAI an evidence-based assessment and care planning tool developed by a group of about 40 international researchers and clinicians. It covers the minimum information required to undertake an assessment of someone. There are varying levels of tools within the InterRAI system ranging from screening tools to extensive comprehensive assessments.

Andrew Downes, Programme Manager Integrated Care, Capital & Coast DHB has been leading the use of the interRAI assessment and care planning system at the DHB and has also helped coordinate pilots across the four other DHBs using interRAI.

He says the focus has been on understanding how best to use the system, the processes that need to be in place and more importantly how to best support new users.

'During the next year we will look at using other interRAI assessment modules, for example the screening modules. This will allow us to pilot the systems with some more services and gradually build up a single assessment process over the next few years,' said Andrew Downes.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

New Technology Providing New Model of Care ... continued

Nurse Maude Association and Capital Coast District Health Board

Anushiya Ayingaran, General Manager Corporate Services, Nurse Maude Association

Although it is very early days, the information from the interRAI has shown some interesting trends. In small groups of people it shows that the rate of hospitalisation is decreasing, mobility is increasing and falls are reducing. The system has also identified a large group of people that have the ability to make gains in mobility and function. From next year, the centre will also be able to do more involved analysis on risk factors identified through interRAI. This will help to identify people with an increased risk of admission to hospital or residential care. Anushiya Ayingaran says previous systems would not have captured this information.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

Health Leaders Tour

Health Leaders Tour of England, Scotland, Denmark, the USA and Canada – October 2006

Chai Chuah, Chief Executive Officer, Hutt Valley District Health Board

A close look at leading health information strategies overseas has provided valuable insight into which way New Zealand should be heading, and Canada's system is emerging as the one to watch.

In October 2006, Debbie Chin (Deputy-Director General, Corporate and Information Directorate, Ministry of Health), Chai Chuah (CEO Hutt Valley DHB), Paul Cressey (Chair Health Information Strategy Action Committee (HISAC)), and Dougal McKechnie (Manager HISAC) toured health systems in England, Scotland, Denmark, the US, and Canada. Andrew Holmes (Manager Outcomes Performance Systems, Ministry of Health) took part in a portion of the tour.

The purpose of the tour was to look at the implementation and progress of the health information strategies, examining what works and what doesn't, and—more importantly—what has the potential to be applied to New Zealand's health system.

Chai Chuah, also a member of HISAC, says there has been much discussion whether a single centralised repository or distributed electronic health records (EHRs) would work best in New Zealand. 'Seeing a system like Canada's Infoway with the distributed EHRs has really confirmed our thinking that this could be the way forward for New Zealand.

It best reflects the nature of the New Zealand health system with many and varied stakeholders, and not all health services provided by the government.

'The tour also highlighted the need to include consumers in the early phase of discussions on EHRs with the emergence of so-called 'expert patients' who want to have access to their own health information,' said Chai Chuah.

He says the tour also highlighted the fact that in both Canada and Denmark there are organizations like HISAC. They are independent, with some financial leverage and with representation from key groups driving health sector investment strategies.'

A report for HISAC on the tour results is being compiled, with recommendations on what direction New Zealand should take.

Chai Chuah says some key contacts made on the tour are expected to visit New Zealand next year to stage presentations on their information systems. Watch this space.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

“SMART”

Hawke’s Bay to provide GPs with comparative health information about their diabetes patients.

Jo-ann Jacobson, Acting Chief Information Officer, Hawke’s Bay District Health Board

A new information system, “SMART” has been introduced in Hawke’s Bay to provide GPs with comparative health information about their diabetes patients.

GPs with patients on the Diabetes ‘Get Checked’ programme can electronically submit their patients health details using a standardised template via the information system. .

Jo-Ann Jacobson, the HBDHB’s Acting Chief Information Officer says, ‘The information is entered into a template embedded in the GP’s patient management system. The data is transmitted to a database at the HBDHB at the click of a button. GP’s can receive back non-identifiable aggregated diabetes information about patients outside their care. They will be able to compare the management of patients with diabetes – something they haven’t had the ability to do before.’

All Hawke’s Bay GPs who are members of PHOs have adopted the SMART information system. The DHB is now extending the system to Maori health providers.

‘The SMART system is designed to improve the monitoring, planning and delivery of care for diabetes and CVD’, said Jo-ann Jacobson. The system also provides population health information to the HBDHB which will be used to implement health programmes aimed at reducing the impact of diabetes.

‘The next step is to provide GPs with diabetes management care plans for their patients prepared by senior medical specialists based on the information supplied through the ‘Get Checked’ programme.

By late next year primary or secondary health care providers will be able to access an up to date, secure electronic health record for chronic care patients, such as diabetics, when required at the point of care. The health record will provide the means to deliver consistent appropriate patient care by the sharing of clinical information.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

TestSafe

Auckland's three DHBs are on the road to a landscape of integrated information systems.

Phil Brimacombe, Chief Information Officer, Counties Manukau District Health Board

Auckland's three DHBs are on the road to a landscape of integrated information systems with key projects like TestSafe underway.

Since June, doctors within the DHBs hospitals have been able to log onto an online database, TestSafe, to access the community lab results of their patients.

Phil Brimacombe who is CIO of Counties Manukau and Waitemata DHBs says, 'The idea behind TestSafe is that there is less duplication of test records and health professionals have faster access to the information they need, which may provide a better health outcome for the patient.'

'The next stage is to give GPs access to the database. Although patients have the option to 'opt off' the system, TestSafe seeks to improve continuity of care by giving health professionals in primary, secondary and tertiary health access to the same information,' said Mr Brimacombe.

The initiative stems from the Auckland Regional Information Systems Strategic Plan 2004 which saw a major shift towards the three Auckland DHBs aligning their information systems.

The next major project due to begin in mid-2007 is building an Auckland Regional Mental Health Information System.

This will involve a single shared Mental Health client record across the three Auckland DHBs, with Phase 2 of this project allowing for client access and shared care planning with non government service providers.

In addition Counties Manukau DHB supports a Chronic Care Management system. Patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, CVD, CHF, COPD who meet certain criteria are enrolled by their GP.

Primary care is supported with patient management advice specific to individual patients. The system also provides printable advice to the patient. This electronic health record is stored by the DHB and a summary can be accessed if the patient enters Counties Manukau DHB emergency department or inpatient facilities.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

Chief Information Officer's Group

Achieving consistency and aligning strategic directions is the focus for DHB CIO's.

Tony Cooke, Chair, CIOs Group (also Chief Information Officer Hutt Valley District Health Board)

Achieving consistency and aligning strategic directions is the focus of the DHB Chief Information Officers' (CIO) Group.

Tony Cooke, CIO at Hutt Valley DHB, chairs the group. He says information sharing is key to its success. 'It's not uncommon for CIOs to discover at the forum that they are working on similar projects or have done so. By getting together we are able to learn what systems work and more importantly what don't. We can minimize implementation risks and make better decisions or pass that valuable advice onto CEOs.'

Initially back in the late 90s, the CIOs met on an informal basis as a means of networking and sharing information. The group now has a quarterly forum in alternative locations around the country. There are also monthly meetings for each of the regions.

Key highlights this year include:

- Establishing a national licence for 3M Encoder software. This is used for clinical coding for inpatients.
- Presentation at Health Informatics New Zealand (HINZ) Conference showcasing regional initiatives
- Participation in Health Information Strategy NZ workshops
- CIO representation on all national information projects

Tony Cooke says the focus for next year will include:

- Implementation of high priority Health Information Strategy New Zealand (HISNZ) projects such as the national network
- Understanding the Government's Digital Rights Strategy
- Reviewing implications of the Public Records Act 2005

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

Programme Management Office Update, Ministry of Health

Project Profile - Data Warehouse Transition Programme

David Cormack, Project Portfolio Analyst, Programme Management Office

At the end of May 1940, 338,226 French and British soldiers were transferred from the beaches of Dunkirk to the shores of England under fierce Luftwaffe bombardment. The evacuation was a resounding success. Lives were lost but the transfer was more successful than the organisers could have hoped for.

Since 2003 the Ministry of Health has been doing its own form of Dunkirk; transferring seven data warehouses from an older technology platform to a newer one. Obviously the Dunkirk evacuation and the Warehouse Transition Programme have some key differences but the analogy still holds.

When the Ministry of Health drew up the Information Systems Strategic Plan in 2003, they included a review of the data warehousing technology platform run by New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS) and made recommendations for improving the access to, management and storage of the data.

“That sounds great,” chorused a group in the background, “we’re right behind you”. And so NZHIS and the programme had the support of the Programme Management Office, the Information Liaison Group, the Analysts Coordination Group and various data warehouse data users. The programme required this large support base because its stakeholders were spread far and wide throughout the health sector.

This was how the Data Warehouse Transition Programme (or, WTP as those in the know call it) was born and now it is rapidly heading towards a finish line with the programme expected to close in December this year.

The programme is being overseen by Ministry of Health Programme Manager Jane Little. Jane has been working at the Ministry off and on for the last 6 years, firstly as a contractor, and then for the last 18 months as a permanent employee.

One of the advantages of the new technologies is that time and consequently the cost, to support and enhance these data warehouses will be reduced; and new data warehouses can be put in place faster than before.

The level of cooperation has been of a very impressive standard with a Data Mart Reference Group introduced at the beginning of the programme. Jane Little noted that “we already had informal working relationships [with the data analysts] from previous projects but we needed something more formal that had the support of their managers and organisations”.

The Data Mart Reference Group brings together a core group of 10 to 12 analysts who are passionate about the data and have their manager’s support.

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

Programme Management Office Update, Ministry of Health...continued

Project Profile - Data Warehouse Transition Programme

David Cormack, Project Portfolio Analyst, Programme Management Office

It was a 21st Century group as meetings were never held on a 'face to face' basis, rather they were conducted using a combination of teleconferences, phone calls and emails.

Jane Little, "ensured that we used their time effectively...listened to their concerns, and where possible responded by changing timeframes or designs".

This group was such a success that once the programme has closed, NZHIS proposes that the reference group should continue.

Following on from the evacuation from Dunkirk, a euphoria gripped Britain, the press presented the evacuation as a "Disaster turned to Triumph" so successfully that Churchill had to remind the country, in a speech to the House of Commons, that "we must be very careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuations." This is also true of the Warehouse Transition Programme, whilst the initial stages have been completed; it is but one step of many.

Upcoming Events

- Medinfo 2007 - Monday 20 August - Friday 24 August, Brisbane, Australia - www.medinfo2007.org
Theme: Building Sustainable Health Systems
- Health Informatics New Zealand (HINZ) - www.hinz.org.nz
Seminar - Friday 9 March 2007, Wellington
Theme: Primary Care Strategy Implementation: How Far Have We Come?
How Can IT Help Us Get To Where We Want To Go?
- Health Informatics New Zealand (HINZ) Forum - Monday 29 October - Wednesday 31 October 2007, Rotorua. Theme: Health Informatics: Effecting Change for Better Health Outcomes

[HOME](#)[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)