



HealthConnect SA is funded by the Australian Government and is delivered through SA Health.

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I am pleased to announce that HealthConnect SA has secured extra funding to broaden the scope of the e-Health Care Planning System, and to continue the HealthConnect SA office until December 2008.

Additional clinical tools to identify at risk patients and assist in the prevention and management of chronic disease will be offered to health care providers over the coming months. The effective use of these tools, with the supporting secure broadband infrastructure already delivered by HealthConnect SA, will ensure providers are well placed to embrace web-based care planning as soon as the e-Health Care Planning System is available.

The system development is progressing well, with HealthConnect SA and Pen Computer Systems working closely and effectively with key stakeholders to ensure the prototype, due for completion later this year, meets the needs of health care providers and consumers. We are continuing to engage with SA Health and the regions to ensure the project aligns and supports current primary health care initiatives that aim to improve the prevention and management of chronic conditions.

There has been wide acknowledgement, from those involved in the management of chronic conditions, that the e-Health Care Planning System can potentially deliver a very worthwhile and much needed solution to the complex care planning process.

However, with funding yet to be secured for Stage 2, being the full system build and implementation within South Australia, there is still much work to be completed. We are currently in the final stages of preparing a business case to support funding for Stage 2, and in the next issue of HealthClix I hope to be able to confirm the proposed Stage 2 workplan.

I trust you will find this issue informative, and I encourage you to forward it on to anyone you feel may be interested in our activities

Andrew McAlindon
Director, HealthConnect SA

More Secure Electronic Messaging packages are now available!

HealthConnect SA is funding the delivery of Secure Electronic Messaging software packages to private health care providers via Divisions of General Practice.

The project commenced in March 2008, and with a huge demand from health care providers for packages, we have been able to secure further funding to double the amount of packages initially being offered.

Secure electronic communication is now a reality and delivering significant benefits to health care providers and patients.

If you would like to participate in this initiative, contact Scott Nell at HealthConnect SA on 1300 767 881 or your local Division of General Practice. Be quick, as packages are limited!

"The secure messaging program has been a great success with a large number of health care providers registering their interest in receiving the package. It has reignited talks between GPs, allied health workers and pharmacies in being able to communicate more efficiently and effectively with the focus being on benefits to the patients as well as benefits to their practice and how they can use the tools to the fullest extent. The packages are also allowing greater communication and continuity of care for those patients who wish to change practitioner's or for those GPs who provide cover whilst another is away by transmitting electronic records to each other with the patient's permission".

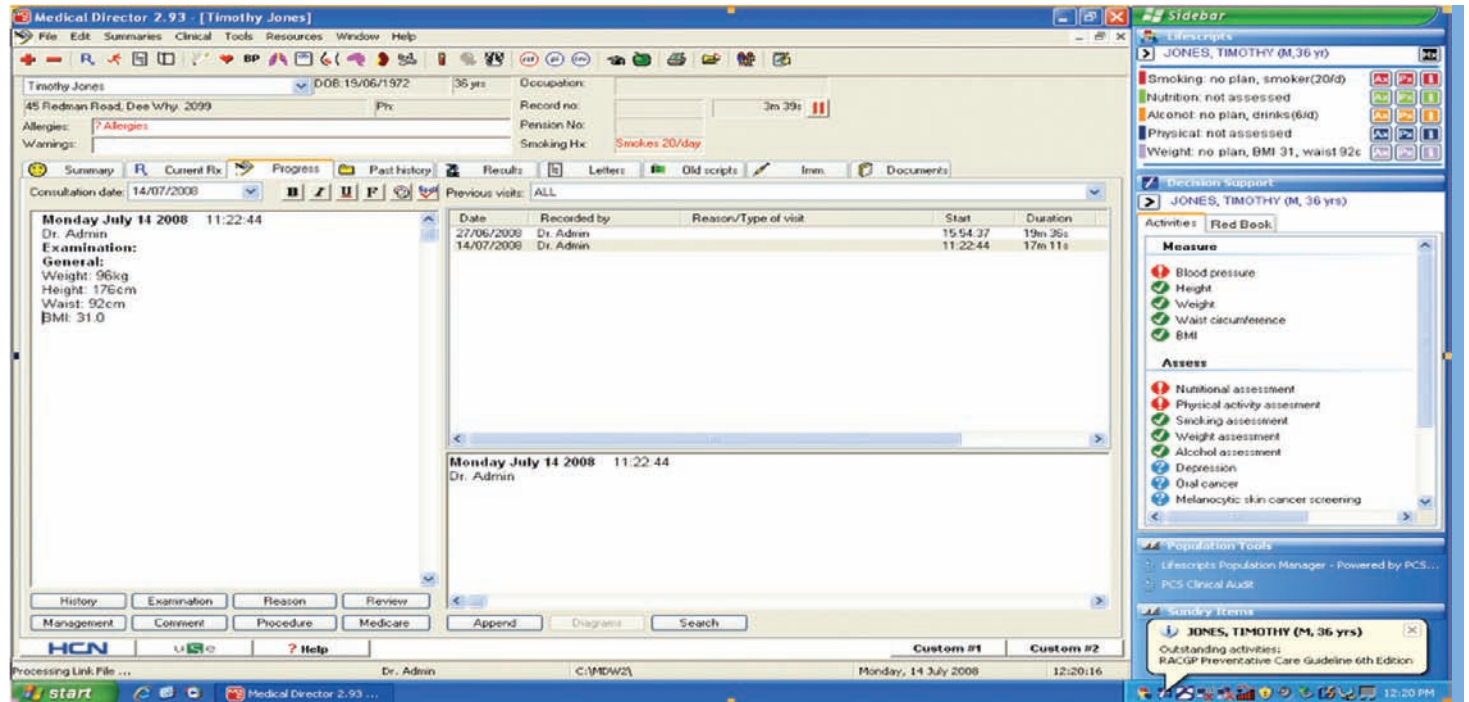
Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice

"The HealthConnect SA secure messaging project has acted as a catalyst for health providers in the Western region to finally get motivated about using secure and efficient communication channels as opposed to the traditional fax, letter and email. The rollout has enabled us to obtain a critical mass of health providers that makes secure messaging useful to those using it. Interest in the secure messaging software has been fantastic and has provided AWGPN an opportunity to establish and strengthen ties with the Allied Health and Specialists in our area. Over the next twelve months we should really see the true benefits of electronic messaging as providers become comfortable with the technology and it becomes an integral part of their business operation".

Adelaide Western GP Network

e-Health Care Planning System

Facilitating coordinated care for people with chronic health conditions, and supporting early detection and management of those at risk



A key deliverable for Stage 1 of the e-Health Care Planning System is the **Primary Care Sidebar**, which will act as a communication and information hub, with data being populated from the health care provider's clinical software as each patient record is accessed.

The Primary Care Sidebar (shown above working with Medical Director) will host a suite of clinical support tools to improve the quality of patient data, identify at risk patients, and to assist in the prevention and management of chronic disease.

Supporting early detection with CAT

The key to identifying people at risk of developing a chronic disease is achieving and maintaining accurate GP practice data. The **Clinical Audit Tool (CAT)** is a software tool that can assist in this process.

South Australian GPs are very fortunate to have easy access to powerful clinical desktop tools via the Primary Care Sidebar, such as the Clinical Audit Tool (CAT) from Pen Computer Systems (PCS).

In many ways the origins of the PCS Clinical Audit Tool and the Adelaide Western GP Network Practice Health Atlas (PHA) have both had major contributions from GPs and Divisions in South Australia. GPs have the potential to adopt a continuous data quality improvement strategy with CAT that ensures the annual Practice Health Atlas for the practice is well informed with high quality practice data.

CAT is an essential desktop adjunct to the GP clinical desktop as it brings an easy to understand approach to chronic disease management and prevention within the context of the practice population as well as identifying business opportunities, patient target risk groups, overdue health care and gaps in practice data quality.

"It's really a clinical information system that sits beside the GP clinical desktop system and puts the GP and practice staff in control of practice data research" says John Johnston, Managing Director of Pen Computer Systems.

What does the NEW CAT offer?

On 30th June CAT v2.0 was "Let out of the Bag," introducing a range of new features and functionality to benefit general practice population health management. In addition to the comprehensive clinical filters already existing within CAT, Version 2.0 sees the addition of:

- **New filters** by provider, pregnancy, DVA and renal impairment as well as new medication filters.
- **New conditions** such as renal impairment, asthma and depression where "active" in the clinical system.
- **New medications** have been added.
- **New reports** including National Performance Indicators (NPIs).

Despite the new features, CAT remains simple to use with minimum impact on already busy GP workflows. In fact, CAT functionality and features have been developed in conjunction with general practitioners, GPSA (previously SADI), GPV, a Divisional Reference Group, and the RACGP.

The new CAT v2.0 is automatically available to existing users at their next login, while new users will receive v2.0 once registered by their local Division.

e-Health Care Planning System

Facilitating coordinated care for people with chronic health conditions, and supporting early detection and management of those at risk

Facilitating coordinated care: a web-based solution

So that members of the care team can communicate quickly and efficiently, a new and improved plug and play application, taking feeds from the Health Provider Registry (HPRy) and Human Services Finder (HSF), will be available in August to improve search functionality for providers.

The HPRy already incorporates general practitioners and specialists and is currently being expanded to include South Australian allied health providers. The HPRy will provide the electronic address book for the e-Health Care Planning System.

When a patient is identified as being at risk of developing a chronic condition, they can be flagged as a candidate for a care plan and placed on a recall system. When the patient next presents, with the patient's consent, the GP can create a draft care plan for the patient using best practice decision support guidelines which will also be available via the Primary Care Sidebar.

The GP can then tailor the draft care plan to the patient's needs.

If the care plan progresses to a Team Care Arrangement (TCA), the proposed team members can be invited through the e-Health Care Planning System and notified via the Primary Care Sidebar. All invited care plan contributors can then interact with the web-based care plan to deliver best practice care. With permission, all contributors and the patient will be able to view the web-based care plan in real time, ensuring the information they access is always up-to-date.

The functional specification document developed in close collaboration with the e-Health Care Planning Development Group has now been completed and endorsed by all members. The Development Group not only includes health care providers and consumers, but also representatives from Medicare Australia.

The collaboration with Medicare will ensure that when the system is implemented, some of the administration barriers to implementing a TCA will be removed and result in improved care planning work flows for all team members.

Supporting early detection with CAT

(continued)

"We are most grateful that GP South Australia, under the guidance of CEO Chris Seiboth, has been able to support GPs throughout the State by acquiring a 3 year license for every GP practice in South Australia."

This initiative has been assisted by ABHI funding and supported by HealthConnect SA.

Have you "Let the CAT out of the bag"? Contact your local Division of General Practice so they can have your practice CAT enrolled and running to maximise the new business and quality accreditation opportunities it offers.

Further information on CAT is available at www.pencs.com.au/cat.

Management of those at risk

Clinical tools that will soon be available via the Primary Care Sidebar to assist in the management of patients at risk of developing a chronic disease include:

- **e-Red Book**, the RACGP's current evidence based guidelines for preventive activities in general practice
- **e-Lifescrpts**, an electronic version of the existing paper based tool utilised by GPs to assist their patients to make healthier lifestyle choices.

Find out more

For more information about the e-Health Care Planning System, including any of the clinical support tools, go to www.healthconnectsa.org.au or call Cathy Teager, Senior Project Manager on 1300 767 881.

Key benefits of the e-Health Care Planning System

- Improve collaboration and communication between members of the health care team and health consumer.
- Increase efficiency of health care delivery.
- Increase knowledge of and participation in self-management of chronic disease by consumers.
- Reduce adverse events by providing up to date clinical information at the point and time of care.
- Increase access to relevant and current health information for health care providers, including best practice guidelines and decision support.
- Improve early identification of patients at risk.
- Improve the health outcomes for patients with chronic conditions.



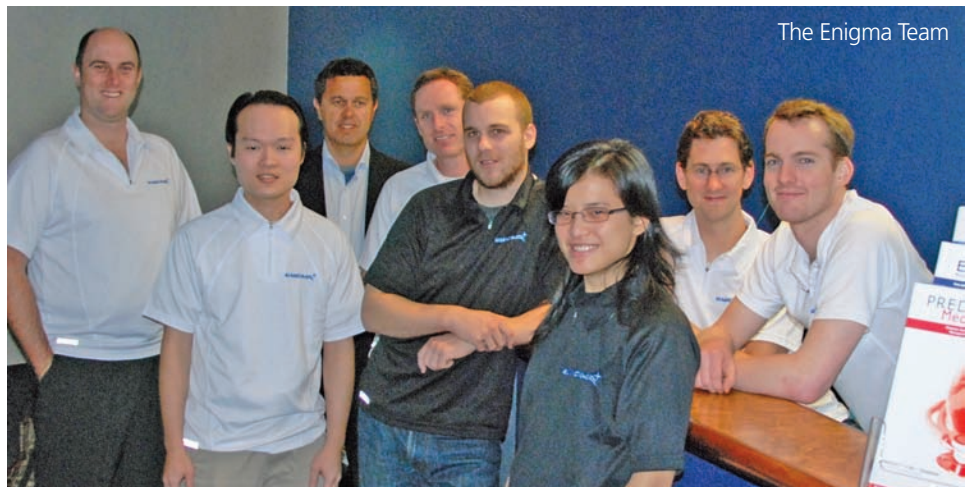
Partnering to achieve success

Introducing another key partner, Enigma, who is collaborating with Pen Computer Systems (PCS) in the development of the e-Health Care Planning System prototype.

Enigma has a rich heritage in Care Planning and decision support systems in New Zealand, with a strong emphasis in CVD and Diabetes. Their PREDICT package, which is widely used throughout NZ in conjunction with the leading NZ GP desktop system, provides evidence-based care planning support to GPs.

Lead by its Systems architect, Chris Wiltshire, and its application architect Dave Quedstedt, Enigma is collaborating with PCS to design the user interface for the e-Health Care Planning System, and to help build the prototype that will be used nationally to illustrate the functionality to stakeholders.

Enigma has played a prominent role in working with the Development Group, who has been so valuable in informing this initiative from the clinical user perspective, to define the e-Health Care



System functionality.

Enigma has a track record in the deployment of web-based solutions, with more than a decade of contribution to health informatics engagement, particularly with organisations such as District Health Boards, Primary Health Organisations, the NZ Guidelines Group, and the University of Auckland, School of Population Health.

For more information about Enigma, head to www.enigma.co.nz.

About us

HealthConnect is a joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative.

HealthConnect SA is guiding the implementation of secure connectivity and e-Health systems to enable health care teams to manage patients with chronic conditions collaboratively.

HealthConnect SA is funded by the Australian Government and is being delivered through SA Health.

Create your own IT security manual!

In the last issue of HealthClix we announced that as a result of feedback from providers who had received a "Security Health Check" as part of their HealthConnect SA Secure Broadband Grant, we had begun developing online IT security resources. The online resources will help health care providers to raise their level of IT security knowledge, and assist them to build a security manual tailored to the needs of their practice.

The resources are in the final stages of development and will be tested by a group of practice managers and health care providers in early August to ensure they are effective and easy to use. We will advise you as soon as the resources are available on our website so you can begin to create your own IT security manual!

For more information, contact Megan Humphries at HealthConnect SA on 1300 767 881.

Who to contact in the HealthConnect SA Team

Contact	Position	Project
Andrew McAlindon	Director	All projects
Cathy Teager	Senior Project Manager	e-Health Care Planning System
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Bec Ryan	Project Officer	e-Health Care Planning System
Kay Tetlow	Project Officer	Secure Broadband Grants
Megan Humphries	Project Officer	Secure Broadband Grants and IT Security Training
Scott Nell	Project Manager	Secure Broadband Grants and Secure Messaging
Maritsa Orphanou	Office Manager	Business Operations
Naomi Pearson	Communications Manager	Communications
Kathy Kayias	Executive Assistant	Administration support

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