



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

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**Andrew McAlindon**  
Director, HealthConnect SA

Since the March issue of HealthClix, when I announced that Pen Computer Systems had been contracted to develop Stage 1 of the e-Health Care Planning System, we have had a busy and productive time at HealthConnect SA. The focus has been to increase our stakeholder engagement activities, both in the development process of the e-Health Care Planning System and to secure funding for Stage 2, being the full system build and implementation within South Australia.

In this issue we outline how the development of the e-Health Care Planning System is progressing and the collaborative approach we are undertaking. This approach has involved the formation of a development group consisting of health care providers and consumers that are actively involved in chronic disease management and a partnership with the SA Divisions of General Practice Inc (SADI). We are working closely with SADI and the Divisions of General Practice to deliver electronic clinical support tools that will assist in the care planning process and improving collaboration via the funding of Secure Electronic Messaging to networks of primary health care providers.

I encourage you to forward on this newsletter to anyone you feel may be interested in our activities, and of course contact us if you would like any further information about our e-Health initiatives.

**Andrew McAlindon** Director

## e-Health Care Planning System

HealthConnect SA, working in partnership with Pen Computer Systems, began Stage 1 of the e-Health Care Planning System in March 2008. The e-Health Care Planning System will allow general practitioners to develop a web-based care plan for patients with chronic conditions, facilitating better collaboration within the health care team and improving the coordination of care.

Stage 1 is to deliver a prototype of the e-Health Care Planning System, as well as a suite of clinical support tools. These tools will be offered to health care providers via a specially designed Primary Care Sidebar. The sidebar is a communication and information hub and will present patient specific data from the health care provider's clinical software.

The initial clinical support tools to be available via the Primary Care Sidebar are:

- Clinical Audit Tool (CAT).
- Electronic interface with Lifescripts (a tool GPs can use to assist their patients to make healthier lifestyle choices).
- Electronic address book – fed by the Health Provider Registry (HPRy).

Read more about the progress of the e-Health Care Planning System and the clinical support tools we are delivering on the following pages.

## Secure Electronic Messaging packages are available now

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

The purpose of this project is to assist South Australian health care providers to communicate with other members of their provider network securely. The software will enable the secure electronic transfer of confidential patient information between members of the patient's health care team.

Since this project commenced in March 2008, demand for the packages has continued to increase, with many Divisions of General Practice reporting they are being inundated with requests.

**If you would like to participate in this initiative, contact Scott Nell at HealthConnect SA on 1300 767 881. Be quick, as packages are limited!**

**For more information go to [www.healthconnectsa.org.au](http://www.healthconnectsa.org.au).**

# e-Health Care Planning System

Facilitating coordinated care for people with chronic health conditions

## A care planning system developed by users

**HealthConnect SA and Pen Computer Systems are designing a web-based care planning system with the help of health care providers and consumers who understand the care planning process.**

Findings from the HealthConnect SA Care Planning and Communication Trial completed late last year and input from a development group made up of health care providers and consumers are

being incorporated into the design and development of the e-Health Care Planning System.

General practitioners, allied health providers, practice nurses, practice managers, consumers and Medicare Australia are all represented on the development group. In April the group met for three full day workshops to discuss care planning work processes and flow, current barriers, communication issues and the requirements of a web based care planning system from a health care provider and

consumer perspective.

The development group are not only debating and determining the critical requirements for the system, but will also endorse the functional specification before final approval.

The active participation of key stakeholders in the development process and the incorporation of learning's from the Care Planning and Communication Trial, will ensure a system is delivered that meets the needs of health care providers and consumers.

## Partnering to achieve success



**Dr Andrew Patterson**  
Director of laso Pty Ltd.

(EHR) and clinical messaging. The laso EHR system uses a modern approach that layers rich clinical data storage capabilities on top of traditional robust relational databases. It uses open EHR archetypes for its data modelling.

It will be an laso "EHR Server" that provides the record structure for patient records and care plans that will support patient clinical information in the e-Health Care Planning System.

Apart from the EHR, the other main component laso will contribute is a "Terminology Server". Andrew calls this the "Knee-bone is connected to the Thigh Bone" server, as it gives context to medical terms and codes with descriptions, and identifies relationships to other medical terms and conditions. The laso Terminology Server uses SNOMED-CT, a terminology that has been adopted and licensed for Australia-wide use by NEHTA (see following article).

For the record, Andrew was the Canon Scholar when he took First Class Honours in 1996 at Sydney University, and he followed this with a Doctorate from Monash which he completed in 2002. He is just completing a Masters in Electronic Law, also through Monash.

Last month we introduced you to Pen Computer Systems (PCS), the company that we have engaged with to deliver the e-Health Care Planning System. In this issue we introduce you to Dr Andrew Patterson, Director of laso Pty Ltd.

laso (pronounced eye-ay-so – for mythology buffs, laso was one of the Greek goddesses of health) is one of the approved sub-contractors to PCS in this project and Andrew will have a key role in the delivery of some critical components that will underpin the e-Health Care Planning System. Andrew has been a collaborator in information systems development with PCS for more than a decade.

Established in 2006, laso is a software development company specialising in the area of e-Health. It develops software components for electronic health records

## Coding diagnosis in General Practice using SNOMED-CT

**Accurate clinical data begins with consistent medical coding. NEHTA has recommended that SNOMED-CT be adopted as the core Clinical Terminology for Australia, and as such it will be incorporated into the development of the e-Health Care Planning System.**

A study into the utility of SNOMED-CT as a coding system in Australian General Practice was undertaken in 2007, with the evaluation report recently released. The report provides an insight into the motivation, background, barriers and acceptance of using SNOMED-CT as a coding system in Australian general practice. The majority of GPs in the study found that SNOMED-CT is suitable for general practice and would be useful for their practice. Despite some implementation barriers, the researchers have reported that "there is no fundamental block that would prevent the use of SNOMED-CT by GPs in general practice".

**For a full copy of the evaluation report "Coding diagnosis in General Practice using SNOMED-CT" go to [www.healthconnectsa.org.au](http://www.healthconnectsa.org.au) and click on latest news.**

## e-Health Care Planning System

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### Quality data is the key to effective healthcare and care planning

**Accurate clinical data is the first step in identifying patients that will benefit from care planning. The Clinical Audit Tool (CAT) which is now available to all general practices in South Australia via the Primary Care Sidebar, is a software tool that can assist general practices to understand, monitor and improve their data.**

CAT operates in collaboration with the GP clinical desktop system. It can create progressive snapshots of general practice patient data and present it in a meaningful way using a graphical approach that is intuitive and requires only minimal time for practice staff to master. It allows the user to drill down from graphical data to identify patients with particular needs, or those with specific health risk profiles. CAT can also assist practices to improve the quality and completeness of patient data to assist with improved patient care and ongoing practice accreditation.

In 2007 CAT was implemented by General Practice Victoria and 25 of its Divisions of General Practice as a practical move to assist GPs with clinical data improvement, target patients with high health risk profiles and support more effective population management. Feedback about the ease of using CAT and the benefits delivered to general practice include:

***“The Clinical Audit Tool from Pen is an excellent continuous quality improvement tool that can optimise the Practice Health Atlas initiative inspired by the Adelaide Western GP Network”***

*North East Valley Division of General Practice*



***“Many practices have repeatedly downloaded updated information designed to reflect work undertaken at the practice in response to earlier findings, reflecting a data cleansing exercise we could only have aspired to 12 months ago”.***

*North East Valley Division of General Practice*

***“The clarity of the presentation of the data and the ease by which patients could be re identified were factors that the practices found particularly useful”.***

*Central Highlands General Practice Network*

#### **Implementation of CAT in South Australia**

SA Divisions of General Practice Inc (SADI) has negotiated a state-wide licence for the use of CAT for the next three years. As a result, CAT is now available to general practices in South Australia as a component of the e-Health Care Planning System.

CAT and the Primary Care Sidebar are being offered to general practices who satisfy the current operating system requirements, in partnership with SADI. “Train the trainer” workshops were conducted on May 12th and 13th and attended by 60 staff representing all fourteen Divisions of General Practice in South Australia.



*Division of General Practice staff attend the CAT workshops on May 12th and 13th*

Divisions of General Practice are now offering general practices the opportunity to have CAT installed and training key practice staff in its use.

**If you are a general practice that would like to know more about CAT, contact your local Division of General Practice, Greg Holden at SADI on 8271 8988, or Scott Nell at HealthConnect SA on 1300 767 881.**

## Online IT security training

**As part of the HealthConnect SA Secure Broadband Grant project, security training packages will soon be available to grant recipients.**

A component of the Secure Broadband Grant is the "Security Health Check", a comprehensive security assessment and report to assist providers in identifying likely security risks and raise awareness of information security processes. The online training 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.

Online training resources are in the process of being developed based on feedback from health care providers who have had a Security Health Check.

A focus group will also be developed to test and refine the training modules and we are keen to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in this group.

**For more information about Secure Broadband Grants, the online training packages, or to enquire about participating in the proposed focus group, contact Megan Humphries at HealthConnect SA on 1300 767 881.**

## About us

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

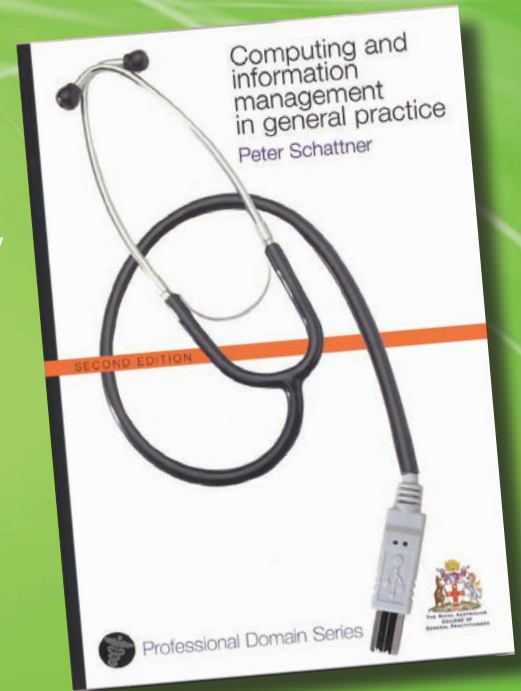
**HealthConnect SA is guiding the implementation of secure connectivity and e-Health systems to enable health care teams to manage patients with chronic conditions collaboratively.**

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## Order your free copy now!

HealthConnect SA has limited copies available of the RACGP endorsed text "Computing and information management in general practice" by Peter Schattner. This easy to read publication will save you time by covering the fundamentals of computing practice and information management in one easy reference. Although aimed at general practice, the book would be of value to all health care providers who want to find the best way of making information technology work for them and their patients.

**To request your free copy, email us at [healthconnect@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:healthconnect@health.sa.gov.au) and include your name and delivery details.**



## 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
Sheena Stell	Project Officer	e-Health Care Planning System
Bec Ryan	Project Officer	e-Health Care Planning System
Kay Tetlow	Project Officer	Secure Broadband Grants
Kim Rusalen	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
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Sasha Morgan	Communications Officer	Communications
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