



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Australia's first national platform for e-scripts begins

Rollout of the first Australia-wide electronic prescription platform began today in pharmacies in Victoria and New South Wales, in readiness for connecting GPs and medical specialists into the platform in April.

Called eRx Script Exchange, the platform will enable GPs and medical specialists to send prescriptions electronically through a secure, encrypted gateway, for later retrieval from a patient's pharmacy of choice anywhere in Australia. The first pharmacies are successfully downloading prescription and external repeat data from eRx.

The rollout commenced in pharmacies using Fred Dispense, and will quickly expand to other pharmacy and prescribing vendors starting with medical prescribing software provider Best Practice.

Mr Kos Sclavos, National President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, stated, "It is very exciting to see this vital project progressing so well. Achieving an Australia-wide electronic prescription platform will be a real milestone for the Australian health system and for patient care. eRx Script Exchange is an example of how innovations in e-health can lead to better coordination of care between GPs and pharmacists, generating the best health outcomes for all Australians."

"The official launch at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference in April means the project is meeting key timelines and I am certain the pharmacy and medical professions are ready to embrace the change and explain the significant benefits to patients," said Mr Sclavos.

Graham Cunningham, Chairman, eRx Script Exchange, says "Electronic prescribing is one of the fundamentals in improving medication accuracy and efficiency, leading to better patient care and safety. Importantly, for pharmacists, efficient accurate dispensing means that they can spend more time with their patients."

Electronic prescriptions will enable better coordination of patient care across providers. In addition, key benefits of electronic prescribing include:

### For pharmacists

- Reducing the likelihood of keying errors
- Strengthening dispensing accuracy
- Accurate retrieval of prescription data
- Faster retrieval of external repeats with scanning of one barcode
- Efficient and safe coordination of new scripts request and emergency supply of medications

### For GPs and medical specialists

- Improving patient safety, as a result of reducing the risk of prescribing and administration errors
- Notification of dispenses can strengthen confidence that patients are receiving medication that they need
- Efficient management of new prescription requests and emergency medicine supply

Visit [www.ernx.com.au](http://www.ernx.com.au) to register for updates about eRx Script Exchange. To view demonstrations of the electronic prescription process, visit the eRx Script Exchange stands at:

- the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on the Gold Coast from 2-5 April 2009 (stands 145,151)
- the General Practitioner Conference and Exhibition in Sydney from 22-24 May 2009 (stand 1021)

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### About eRx Script Exchange

*eRx Script Exchange is an industry partnership designed to improve health outcomes for all Australians. It brings together expertise in the e-health needs of pharmacists, GPs and medical practitioners. eRx Script Exchange utilises the development expertise of health exchange specialist Simpl NZ, Microsoft Australia, HP and industry leaders Fred Health and Best Practice Software.*