



eRx
script exchange

news

Issue 2012-1

Australia's first nationwide ePrescription solution

! Have you registered for eRx eScripts?
Register now to ensure that your customers experience the safety and quality benefits of eScripts – www.eRx.com.au

AAPM supports eRx

The Australian Association of Practice Managers (AAPM) has shown its leadership in the eHealth arena, officially partnering with eRx and the MedView project in January.



Brett McPherson

National President, Brett McPherson, said "The AAPM is joining the MedView project and supports eRx because of their integral role in Australia's eHealth future. MedView represents a

tremendous advance in medicines management, and ePrescribing is a vital link in the secure sharing of consented data required to achieve this.

The practice management profession has a long history of leadership in healthcare management, and we now have a significant opportunity to dramatically advance medicines management and help shape Australia's eHealth future."

According to Paul Naismith, CEO, Fred IT Group, "We are delighted that the AAPM is



joining forces with eRx and MedView and actively supporting advances in the eHealth arena. The industry-wide collaboration and support of GPs, practice managers, pharmacy, and software vendors is vital in realising a change of this importance, and nowhere is this more pressing than in relation to Australia's eHealth future."

As Brett McPherson describes, "We have already seen significant interest in ePrescribing. However, for Practice Managers who have not yet embraced ePrescribing, this is the time to do so as one of the key steps towards eHealth."

Find out more about the MedView PCEHR Medicines Management Trial on p3 >

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Australia's #1 choice for ePrescriptions

eRx improves communication between doctors and pharmacists to ensure patients receive the medication their doctor intended.

- Improved Patient Safety
- Faster, more accurate dispensing
- Dispense history available to doctors
- Integrated into your existing clinical software

NEWS FLASH

New vendors live

We welcome two new vendors who have recently gone live after successfully completing eRx accreditation:

- **StatHealth** with new medical software for doctors
- **CPIAM DispenseIT** with new software for pharmacies

Both vendors chose to include ePrescriptions functionality through eRx.

What is MedView?

MedView
www.medview.com.au

- MedView is a national medicines repository
- It gives healthcare providers a combined list of prescribed and dispensed medications collected from community, hospital and aged care settings
- Clinicians can access MedView directly and easily from their existing clinical software
- Available in selected sites early 2012.

A word from eRx users

“ If every script has an eRx bar code (and believe me the system works) then everyone wins. Biggest of all is patient safety. Go and work in a country area where every town in a district has got on board (Doctors and pharmacies) and see what a difference it makes. I can dispense 200 scripts and only have to manually type 20 scripts in certain areas. Bliss! Doctors can trace adherence too! ”

David Haworth
Pharmacy Locum



eScripts and Australia's eHealth roadmap

■ BY ROGER BOOT

Roger Boot is an eHealth consultant who has been involved with eRx Script Exchange since 2008. Roger has led significant IT and change management projects in the primary industries, non-profit, and health sectors. A fuller version of this article was published in Pulse IT magazine www.pulseitmagazine.com.au in November 2011.

The immediate benefits of eScripts are fairly clear – greater dispensing accuracy and efficiency, better communication between health providers, visibility of dispense history for GPs, and overall improved safety for health users.

But the long-term picture has been less well understood, and it is here that the true value of eScripts lies, in Australia's eHealth roadmap.

Medication management is one of the key principles driving the eHealth agenda.

The business case for medication management was clarified by the Deloitte National eHealth Strategy (2008) which highlighted that:

- 10% of hospital admissions are due to adverse drug events
- preventable medication prescribing errors cost Australian taxpayers at least \$380 million per year
- 25% of a clinician's time reported as wasted seeking information about patients.

The ability to collect and share information across doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, and aged care settings is therefore a vital step in providing patients with the best medication care possible.

The challenge has been in the how. How to share information between health care providers, keep it efficient and effective, and at the same time built around patient consent, confidentiality and data security?

This is where eScripts come in, providing a vital building block for the sharing of data between health care providers, and making significant eHealth advances such as MedView possible. Built on the backbone of eRx technology, MedView brings together the data from all of the care providers involved in a patient's care, including doctors, pharmacists, and nurses in community, hospital, and aged care settings. This means that all care providers involved in treating a patient will have as complete a medications picture as possible, including for the first time, a combined record of prescribed and dispensed medications.

Read our article on MedView to find out more.

eRx transactions on the up and up

Take up of electronic prescriptions soared in 2011, with record numbers of original and repeat prescriptions coming through eRx, and overall eRx transactions up by 40%.

David Freemantle, General Manager eHealth for Fred IT Group, attributes the growth to the substantial network of GPs and pharmacies now using electronic prescriptions as a matter of course.

"GP and pharmacy users both increased substantially during 2011, with a 40% increase overall. This has tangible benefits for health users, as more and more people receive the benefits of the full prescribing and dispensing cycle of safety improvements and efficiencies."

The 4.2 million dispense transactions recorded by eRx includes originals and repeats dispensed manually as well as those scanned using the eRx barcode. More than 95% of dispense transactions are carried by eRx at no charge to the pharmacist, doctors or the government under the current 5CPA funding



David Freemantle, General Manager eHealth for Fred IT Group,

agreement with only full end to end doctor initiated scripts currently funded.

According to David, "Last year was an important year in establishing ePrescriptions as part of the day to day practice of health users. In 2012 we are focusing on consolidating this further with increased participation of doctors and pharmacies."

Highlights for 2011

- eRx prescriptions volume grew by 40% year on year
- New record of 750,000 prescriptions dispensed in the one day
- 4.2 million dispensing transactions in the pre-Christmas week

Coming in 2012

- Bringing even more GPs and pharmacy users on line
- New vendor partners coming online
- Further integration, including sending and fulfillment of electronic requests for planned prescriptions

Medicines management trial powered by eRx

A new eHealth trial called MedView is set to give doctors and pharmacists a combined list of patients' prescribed and dispensed medications.

MedView is a new medications repository. With the click of a button on your existing clinical or dispense software, you will be able to view your patient's medication history across community, hospital and aged care settings.

Patient information is only collected for patients who have given consent, and they can opt out at any time.

Paul Naismith, CEO of Fred IT, describes, "MedView is an Australian first in that it draws together medications information from healthcare professionals in community, hospital and aged care settings. This visibility of information is a real breakthrough for healthcare professionals, enabling better medications management and safer outcomes for patients."

The open communication and information sharing between health professionals is one of the key benefits of MedView, as is

a reduced likelihood of re-keying and processing errors.

MedView is being launched in the Barwon Region, Victoria in March. It will then be rolled out in Tasmania, Inner East Melbourne and Brisbane South, before becoming available in selected sites nationally.

Turning on eScripts is the first step in moving towards improved medications management, as Paul Naismith, describes, "MedView depends upon the secure and efficient sharing of information, and eRx technology provides the vital link in delivering the relevant records efficiently and with appropriate consent. The success of eRx is an important part of why the Commonwealth government chose the Fred IT Group to build MedView."

MedView is funded under the Commonwealth Government's national

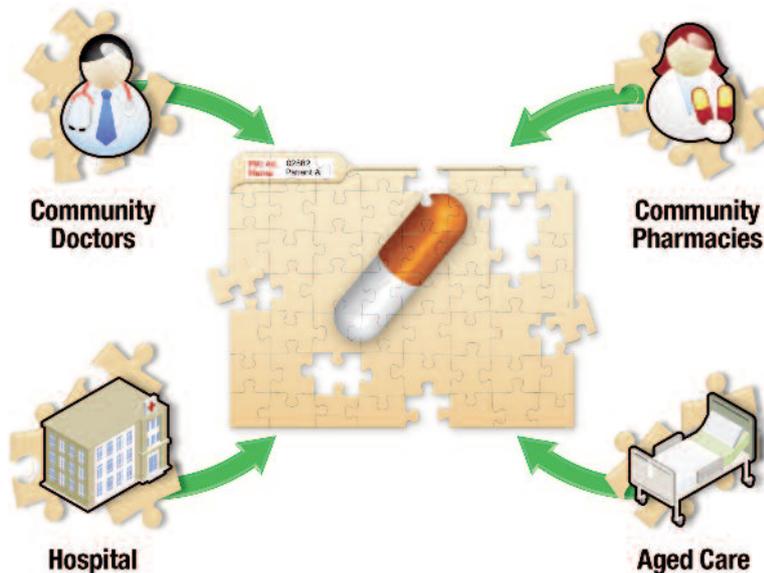
MedView

Connecting pieces of the puzzle for better medications management

www.medview.com.au

“ Powered by eRx. MedView was built by the same people and using the same technology platform as eRx Script Exchange ”

eHealth program. The MedView trial outcomes will help shape the Commonwealth Government's Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR).



Key benefits of MedView:

- Improved Medication Management in Australia
- Easy access to a patient's current list of medications information
- The ability to more effectively monitor patient's medication compliance and limit adverse drug interactions
- More open communication and information sharing between health professionals
- Integrated into existing clinical software – just takes the click of a button
- Uses eRx Script Exchange ePrescribing for fast, secure transmission of information
- Free to install and use

Committed to Standards

Objective and rigorous standards are vital for the benefit of all. They help protect patients and help to ensure that our national systems are safe and reliable.

Currently, there are no Australian Standards covering the full domain of what a Prescription exchange such as

eRx does. Standards Australia and the National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA) have been working with industry representatives to fill this void.

This year, Standards Australia will publish 1,200+ pages of technical specifications detailing how Australian prescription exchanges and other software vendors will function, including full interoperability.

eRx actively supports the development of these next generation standards. eRx is working closely with Standards Australia and NEHTA, feeding our resources and practical knowledge of running a national script exchange into the standards setting process.

eRx is committed to adopting the next generation standards as they are finalised.

Exhibitions in 2012

Pharmacy

8-11 March

Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, QLD

15-17 June

The Guild Pharmacy Academy – National Convention and Exhibition 2012, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, NSW

18-21 October

Pharmacy Australia Congress 2012, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, VIC



Medical

8-10 March

Best Practice Summit 2012, Central Queensland University, Bundaberg, QLD

18-20 May

The General Practitioner Conference and Exhibition 2012, Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, NSW

16-20 October

Australian Association of Practice Managers, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD

25-27 October

GP12 – The Conference for General Practice, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD

16-18 November

The General Practitioner Conference and Exhibition 2012, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, VIC

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