



# eRx script exchange

# NEWS

August 2009

Australia's first nationwide e-prescription solution

Welcome to the August update on eRx Script Exchange, the first Australia-wide platform for electronic prescriptions, or e-scripts.

With eRx, GPs can now prescribe electronically with confidence that patients can have their scripts safely and securely dispensed anywhere around Australia. eRx e-scripts are designed to improve patient care and safety, and to strengthen coordination and communication of patient care between health care providers.

## WHAT'S NEW

- Health Communication Network and Zedmed join eRx
- eRx on show at Pharmacy Women's Congress and at Health Information Conference
- More than 600,000 e-scripts sent and dispensed via eRx
- Over 2,900 GPs and pharmacists registered to start using eRx
- eRx network covers 99% of pharmacies and 90% of GPs
- Partnerships with 14 medical and pharmacy software vendors delivering an interoperable network

## e-HEALTH FOCUS

e-Health initiatives were a prominent focus at this year's Pharmacy Women's Congress (Surfer's Paradise) and Health Informatics Conference (Canberra).



David Freemantle from eRx at the Pharmacy Women's Congress.

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## IN FOCUS – New Partnerships

As a result of new partnerships, Health Communication Network (Medical Director) and Zedmed are joining medical software vendors such as Best Practice and Genie in ensuring that eRx enables an Australia-wide network of over 90% of GPs and 99% of pharmacies to send and receive e-scripts via the eRx platform.

According to eRx Chairman, Graham Cunningham, "This means that prescribers and pharmacists can have the utmost confidence in the fact that they are drawing upon an accurate and comprehensive electronic script platform, and one which connects the maximum number of health care professionals throughout

Australia. This really is the genuine starting point for e-prescribing here in Australia."

Mr Kos Sclavos, National President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, stated, "This is a significant example of industry driving e-health initiatives to improve patient outcomes. With eRx Script Exchange, Australia now has in place a national platform for electronic scripts, delivering immediate improvements for patient care and safety, and ongoing efficiencies for prescribers and pharmacists. This milestone for Australian health care will genuinely deliver improved outcomes for patients and professionals."



## Medical Director

Health Communication Network has signed up to deliver eRx electronic prescriptions through its flagship product Medical Director, which has 17,000 subscribers around Australia.

HCN CEO, John Frost, said, "HCN has the utmost confidence in the eRx solution and strongly believes that it is the most robust and reliable form of e-prescribing currently available in Australia. By delivering this functionality to our Medical Director subscribers, we will ensure that our customers can be confident that the e-prescribing component will be supported and maintained by HCN directly."

"HCN has chosen eRx as a first step towards integrated e-prescribing for Medical Director based on the company's belief that the eRx platform is robust, reliable, well architected and sustainable. Importantly, the integration into Medical Director ensures patient safety and quality use of medicines principles are adhered to through close collaboration with all parties."



## Zedmed Clinical

Zedmed has also partnered with eRx Script Exchange to deliver e-scripts to its 5,500 users in 800+ high volume medical and health centres around Australia. As a result, users of Zedmed software will be able to use eRx to send prescriptions electronically, with confidence that patients can have their scripts dispensed safely and securely anywhere around Australia.

According to Dr Andrew Pascoe, Zedmed Clinical Director, "Electronic prescriptions are of particular interest for our users, who are in large, high volume sites around Australia, with the need for highly sophisticated practice management and clinical records. As well as the obvious safety benefits of e-scripts, improved communication between healthcare providers is of real benefit to our users, as are the fully integrated features, such as more efficient processes for managing new and owing prescriptions, and notification of dispense."

eRx Script Exchange was on show at both events, providing live demonstrations of all stages of the process, from prescribing through to dispensing.

There was strong momentum and enthusiasm for e-health initiatives, according to David Freemantle, National Project Director, eRx, "We are seeing a real shift now, as professionals becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of electronic prescriptions. As more and more electronic scripts are being generated, the focus is moving to how quickly people can get involved."

Paul Naismith, CEO of Fred Health, one of the 14 medical and pharmacy software vendors behind eRx, said, "Because electronic prescriptions are a fundamental component of e-health infrastructure, it was important to involve the entire industry. There is now real recognition of the importance of these medical and

pharmacy software vendors partnering in a collective approach to deliver the eRx national platform."

"eRx has been developed using a model of software vendors making e-scripts available to their users, and this provides a number of ongoing benefits for end users. It ensures that the platform is accessible for all GPs and pharmacists - whatever software they use - and that it is fully supported by existing vendor technical support processes. It also ensures that e-scripts are fully integrated into existing prescribing and dispensing software, which means there are no new workflow issues or new software for users to learn. And it also means that any upgrades required to eRx can take place easily through the standard updates that software vendors provide."

## THOSE INVOLVED SO FAR...

### eRx Vendor Partners



### Endorsement Partners



### Development Partners



**REGISTER NOW!**

[www.ERX.com.au](http://www.ERX.com.au)

Registration is free to doctors and pharmacists, and transaction fees are currently funded for Guild and AFSPA members.

Once you have registered, eRx will pass your registration details onto your software vendor who can progress your installation

### BACKGROUND

eRx Script Exchange is an industry-driven collaboration established to improve health outcomes for Australians. Led by Fred Health, it is being developed with the e-health expertise of Simpl New Zealand and Microsoft Australia, and rolled out throughout Australia in collaboration with leading software vendors.