



eRx script exchange

NEWS

October 2009

Australia's first nationwide e-prescription solution



Microsoft | Partner Program

2009
AWARD WINNER

Public Sector Health Industry
Partner of the Year

Hospital pharmacists behind eRx

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has become an endorsement partner for eRx. This recognises that the electronic transfer of prescriptions is an important first step in connecting up medical and pharmacy practices, which in time could be extended to link with hospital pharmacies.

Leading edge pharmacy practice is part of the Society's vision in representing more than 2200 practising pharmacists and technicians in public and private hospitals and other practice settings throughout Australia.

The partnership with eRx reflects the Society's overarching interest in optimal health outcomes for Australian consumers through the safe and effective use of medicines and professional standards for pharmacists, especially in hospitals.

SHPA President Neil Keen said, "The electronic transfer of a prescription is a major step forward, with potential for

significant benefits such as improvements to patient safety. This is an important move in making connections using coded medicines information between health care settings and this will continue to develop over time. SHPA is very supportive of working towards the use of a current medication list that is able to be used by health care providers and consumers themselves to support safer care. SHPA's endorsement of eRx demonstrates our recognition that important steps are being taken. SHPA is committed to work in partnership with others and to the development of information technology to support safe care along all steps of the medicines management pathway, in line with best practice in security, privacy, and efficiency."

David Freemantle, National Project Director, eRx, described the partnership as an important step in ensuring that an electronic prescription service is of benefit to as many Australians as possible, and through all sectors of health that are involved in prescribing and dispensing.

Welcome to the October 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

- Society of Hospital Pharmacies Australia (SHPA) partners with eRx
- More than 2 million scripts sent to eRx and 350,000 dispensed
- More than 3,300 doctors and pharmacies registered

REGISTER NOW!

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.

Industry events during October

Interest in electronic prescriptions continues to grow strongly, with GPs and pharmacists taking part in hands-on demonstrations of eRx at industry events around Australia during October.

Patient medication management continues to be a major motivator for electronic prescriptions, according to GPs at GP '09 in Perth. Dispense notifications and new script processes are two features that have attracted particular interest in recognition of their ability to improve patient medication management and streamline administrative processes.

Delegates at all three events saw interoperability as a key priority, according to eRx Consultant Pharmacist Jason Bratuskins, "GPs and pharmacists



From left: Julie Dietrich and Frank Pyefinch, Best Practice Software; Paul Naismith, CEO, Fred Health and eRx Consultant Pharmacist Jason Bratuskins, at the Australian Association of Practice Managers Conference

were in strong agreement about three fundamental priorities for electronic prescriptions. These were that it be fully interoperable with doctor and pharmacy

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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 Simpli New Zealand and Microsoft Australia, and rolled out throughout Australia in collaboration with leading software vendors.

Oct/Nov 2009 industry events with eRx

- GP '09 Conference run by the Royal Australian College of GPs (Perth) 2-4th
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) PAC conference (Sydney) 16th- 18th
- Australian Association of Practice Managers (AAPM) Conference 21-23rd
- General Practitioner Conference & Exhibition, Melbourne November 13-15th November

Industry events during October

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systems, that it be a seamless and easy to use process, and as widely available to consumers as possible."

Practice Managers at Australian Association of Practice Managers National Conference were particularly enthusiastic about the ease with which eRx Script Exchange is used and supported in the practice from an IT perspective. Jason Bratuskins said, "Feedback was very positive about the fact that eRx Script Exchange is deployed and maintained by health and pharmacy software vendors as part of regular software upgrades. This means that support issues are handled through the already existing relationships between health professionals and their software provider. eRx is installed and upgraded through the standard software updates that are already in place, which means there are no new workflow issues, and no maintenance or compatibility issues."

With eRx electronic prescriptions already in use all around Australia, and more than 3,300 sites contracted and being installed, health professionals are increasingly able to experience the benefits themselves.



Paul Naismith, CEO, Fred Health, on the stand at the Australian Association of Practice Managers Conference

THOSE INVOLVED SO FAR...

eRx Vendor Partners



Endorsement Partners



Development Partners

