



MEDIA RELEASE

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Friendly Society Pharmacies set for e-scripts with eRx Script Exchange

eRx Script Exchange and the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association Inc have signed a landmark agreement aimed at ensuring that the Association's member pharmacies around Australia will be able to enjoy the improved safety benefits of e-scripts as soon as possible.

Under the agreement, AFSPA has funded half a million transactions on eRx Script Exchange, the first Australia-wide platform for e-scripts. With eRx, GPs can send prescriptions electronically, with confidence that patients can have their scripts dispensed safely and securely anywhere around Australia.

According to Jim Howard, President of Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association Inc, "There are obvious and immediate benefits flowing from e-scripts, both in terms of improved safety for patients, and to the health care profession. Making e-scripts available to our members is an important way of ensuring that we continue our tradition of providing the best possible health care and safety for communities all around Australia, and we are very keen to pass on the accuracy and efficiency benefits in dispensing as quickly as possible."

Mr Kos Sclavos, National President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, stated, "It is tremendous to see industry bodies Australia-wide working together to ensure that e-scripts are made available to the entire profession as quickly as possible. Together with the Guild's commitment of 10.6 million transactions, the AFSPA funding of 500,000 member transactions builds the total number of funded transactions to more than 11 million. This clearly demonstrates continued industry leadership in representing the needs of pharmacy and in achieving ongoing improvements in patient care."

These agreements clearly demonstrate the industry-wide commitment behind eRx Script Exchange, according to Chairman, Graham Cunningham, "We are delighted to partner with AFSPA in making e-scripts available to Friendly Pharmacies nationally. This partnership demonstrates the industry-wide commitment behind eRx, which has been crucial in making the benefits of e-scripts available as widely and quickly as possible throughout Australia. In addition, the funding of transactions both by AFSPA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia demonstrates the depth of industry commitment towards a national platform for e-scripts."

The first GPs began using sending electronic prescriptions in April 2009 with the national launch of eRx Script Exchange. Pharmacy and GP sites are continuing to roll out around Australia, with more than 1500 GPs and pharmacies contracted to begin using eRx over the coming months.

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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 SimpliNZ, Microsoft Australia, HP and industry leaders Fred Health and Best Practice Software.

About AFSPA

Friendly Society Pharmacies are not-for-profit entities, which have owned and operated pharmacies continuously since the 1840's. They are representative of the long tradition of community services provided by many entities in a range of industries but especially in the primary health care and related industries.