

Australia's first electronic prescription successfully dispensed

Leading Australian prescribing and dispensing vendors collaborate to complete electronic prescription

Australia's first paperless electronic prescription in primary care was successfully prescribed and dispensed in Victoria yesterday, marking a significant first step in the national delivery of electronic prescriptions.

The first electronic prescribing and dispensing occurred between Anglesea Medical and Anglesea Pharmacy. It used the "token" model where the doctor sends the electronic prescription along with a code or "token" to the patient by SMS or email. The patient then forwards or presents the code to their chosen pharmacy for dispensing.

According to Dr David Corbet at Anglesea Medical who prescribed the first electronic prescription, "The process is as simple as writing the prescription in the usual manner and, with the consent of the patient, selecting that the prescription is generated as an electronic prescription."

Pharmacist Jason Bratuskins dispensed the first electronic prescription in his Anglesea pharmacy. He commented, "Our patients and staff have been profoundly influenced by the isolation requirements of COVID-19, and it has been terrific to be part of efforts to re-define how we support our patients with alternative options for fulfilling prescriptions. I was pleased to see that this could sit comfortably alongside our existing processes."

This week's successful electronic prescription occurred using the Best Practice prescribing system, prescription exchange service eRx Script Exchange, Fred NXT Dispense and MedView Flow.

Pharmacist and CEO of Fred IT Group, Paul Naismith said, "The achievement of the first successful electronic prescription in primary care settings is a major step forward in Australia's provision of a digital network that provides patients with flexibility for how they access their medications. I am very proud of the Fred and eRx teams which, through ongoing innovation and hard work, have achieved this result ahead of schedule in a very challenging work environment."

CEO of Best Practice, Dr Frank Pyefinch, was thrilled to hear that the first electronic script had been successfully transferred using Best Practice Software, saying, "Our team has pulled out all stops to deliver this important functionality as quickly as possible and we expect that it will confirm that electronic prescriptions are the way of the future. It is history in the making!"

The token model will work alongside the Active Script List (ASL) to provide patients with flexibility in how they digitally access their medications. This week's success covered the entire electronic process of the token model: prescribing electronically in Best Practice, providing the patient with a token with the required number of repeats via eRx, sending the dispensing request to the pharmacy, integrating it into the pharmacy's workflow, based on MedView Flow, and then dispensing in Fred NXT.

Fred CEO Paul Naismith emphasised that ongoing industry collaboration will be vital to the national delivery of electronic prescriptions. Naismith concluded, "The priority from here is to continue approving participating vendor systems and understand what is needed to prepare patients, prescribers and pharmacies for a national system of electronic prescriptions. The token model and ASL are both important components of a national approach which provides patients with the flexibility and security to manage their electronic prescriptions in collaboration with their local prescriber and pharmacist."

Media queries: David Freemantle, General Manager, eHealth, Fred IT Group **M** 0417 398 726

About Fred IT Group

Fred IT Group is Australia's largest provider of Pharmacy IT solutions servicing more than 3000 pharmacies. The company was launched out of a deep commitment to the role of technological leadership in improving patient outcomes whilst making it easier and more efficient for health professionals to run their business. Fred's technological leadership has seen it invest in and launch a number of groundbreaking systems for health professionals, including Fred NXT, Australia's first cloud based management platform developed specifically for pharmacy, eRx Script Exchange, Australia's first and largest national electronic prescriptions exchange, and MedView, a consolidated medications picture available via the desktop.

About eRx Script Exchange

eRx Script Exchange is Australia's first and largest national electronic prescriptions exchange (PES), connecting more than 25,000 prescribers and 5,100 pharmacies. eRx helps to improve health outcomes through providing a safer and more efficient dispensing process.

MedView is powered by eRx, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fred IT Group, Australia's largest provider of IT solutions to pharmacy. Fred's leadership and commitment to medication management during its 27 years has seen them invest in and launch a number of innovations for health professionals including the National Prescription and Dispense Repository (NPDR), SafeScript – Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system and the National Data Exchange (NDE).