

Health Information Strategy Action Committee

Ministry of Health
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Health Network Code of Practice amendment

An amendment to the Health Network Code of Practice (HNCOP) was published by the Standards New Zealand Council on 26 October 2006.

The Code is a comprehensive security framework for the secure exchange of health information, covering:

- security of sites connected to the New Zealand Health Network,
- secure controlled access to information
- network security provided by telecommunication providers
- governance and management of the security framework

The amendment provides the option for both 'secure' (encrypted) and 'trusted' (unencrypted) networks to be connected to the Health Network.

The amendment removes the requirement for telecommunication service providers to provide encryption on 'trusted' networks, but the Code requires users of those networks to use encryption as a security measure for maintaining the privacy of identifiable health information.

The audit process for compliance to the Code includes the requirement for either network level encryption or application encryption as the prescribed security measure for maintaining the privacy of health information.

A full copy of the amended New Zealand Health Network Code of Practice (SNZ HB 8169:2002) is available from <http://www.standards.co.nz>

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