



## Issue 2 – September 2009

### Welcome from Jo Fitzpatrick

Consumer rep, HISAC Committee

Welcome to our slightly late second newsletter.

In this issue we take a look at personal health records which are gaining increasing profile – especially with both Microsoft and Google now providing services in this area. We discuss the Microsoft and Google approaches and also look at some home-grown examples which have emerged in recent times.



The HISAC Consumer Forum report on stakeholder and community engagement on Safe Sharing of Information has been completed.

This was prepared at the invitation of the Minister of Health the Hon Tony Ryall. We will profile this in the next newsletter.

Last week was the HINZ conference in Rotorua. The theme was 'Patient centred health care: e-health as an enabler.' The HISAC breakfast profiled our Consumer Forum Safe Sharing Project. My presentation, which followed the breakfast brought a consumer perspective to the topic and featured an interview with a 'real' consumer! More in the next newsletter!

Please feel free to provide feedback on the newsletter - all suggestions are welcome. You can send these to the HISAC Office at [enquiries@HISAC.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@HISAC.govt.nz).

### Personal Health Records

A **personal health record** or PHR is a health record that is initiated and maintained by an individual. An ideal PHR would provide a complete and accurate summary of the health and medical history of an individual. Data would be gathered from many sources and the record is made accessible to anyone who has the necessary credentials to view the information.

#### **Definition**

The term "personal health record" is not new. The earliest, English-language article indexed by **PubMed** that mentions the term is dated June 1978; however, search results from PubMed also reveal that most scientific articles written about PHRs have been published since 2000.

The PHR is an ill-defined concept that has been developing over several years. The term has been applied to both paper-based and computerized systems; however, current usage usually implies an electronic resource. In recent years, several formal definitions of the term have been proposed by various organizations.

Although each definition is unique, most of the definitions agree that the PHR is a computerized application that stores an individual's **personal health information**.

It is important to note that PHRs are not the same as EHRs (**electronic health records**). The latter are software systems designed for use by health care providers. Like the data recorded in paper-based medical records, the data in EHRs are legally mandated notes on the care provided by clinicians to patients. There is no legal mandate that compels a consumer or patient to store her personal health information in a PHR.

PHRs can contain a diverse range of data but usually include information about:

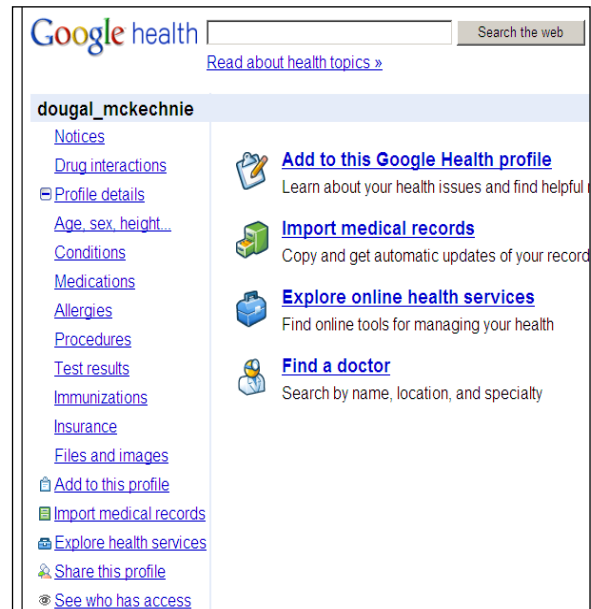
- allergies and adverse drug reactions,
- medications (including dose and how often taken) including over the counter medications and herbal remedies,
- illnesses and hospitalizations,
- surgeries and other procedures,
- vaccinations,
- laboratory test results,
- and family history.

In addition to storing an individual's personal health information, some PHRs provide added-value services such as drug-drug interaction checking or electronic messaging between patients and providers.

SOURCE: Wikipedia

Two of the most well known examples of PHR's are Microsoft's HealthVault and Google Health. While these tools are available globally, at this stage they only offer real utility to US users. This is because in the US they have agreements with a range of health care providers to provide data to the services at the request of individuals. So for example, while you can create a Google Health PHR here in

New Zealand – there are no agreements with GP's and other health care providers for information to be provided to the record. All information would have to be manually entered and updated.



For more information, see:

Google Health -  
<http://www.google.com/intl/en-NZ/health/about/>

Microsoft HealthVault -  
<http://www.healthvault.com/>

In New Zealand there are a number of examples of PHR services which have emerged over the past few years. These include:

Manage My Health -  
<http://www.managemyhealth.co.nz/>

My Healthy Life -  
<https://www.myhealthilife.co.nz/>

MediFile –  
<http://www.medifile.co.nz/>

Marae Health -  
<http://www.maraehealth.co.nz/>

## Diary



- 15<sup>th</sup> October : HISAC Committee meeting, Wellington . Contact: [jo@womens-health.org.nz](mailto:jo@womens-health.org.nz)
- 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October: Mental health law conferences in Christchurch (15<sup>th</sup>) and Dunedin (16<sup>th</sup>). Contact Iris at 04 498 7337; 021 869 361; [iris.reuvecamp@buddlefindlay.com](mailto:iris.reuvecamp@buddlefindlay.com)
- 19<sup>th</sup> October – Health and Disability NGO Forum. NGO Challenges for Changing Times. Wellington. See: [http://www.ngo.health.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexcm/ngo-currentactivity-forums-19oct09?Open&m\\_id=5.1](http://www.ngo.health.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexcm/ngo-currentactivity-forums-19oct09?Open&m_id=5.1)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Safe and Sound: Concert to support maternal health in the Pacific. Wellington. Organised by Family Planning. Tickets available from Real Groovy or [www.undertheradar.co.nz](http://www.undertheradar.co.nz)
- 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October. Volunteering Unleashed. Volunteering NZ National Conference. Wellington. See <http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/news/headlines/090121b.php>
- 6<sup>th</sup> November: Cartwright Comes of Age seminar. Auckland. A forum for critical and consumer perspectives on the major themes and recommendations from the Cartwright Inquiry – The Commissioner, the Code and patient advocacy; Ethics Committees, screening programmes and patient centred health care
- 11<sup>th</sup> November: National Community Government Forum, Wellington. See: <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/>

## Recent postings to the Google Group

- Presentation and Literature Review from the Australian National Aging Research Institute on “What is person-centred health care?”
- European paper “Navigating health: the role of health literacy”.
- Article by Canterbury DHB Chief Executive David Meates called “The right to be heard” concerned community engagement and consultation.
- Consumer Forum workshop proceedings and papers relating to the advice to the Minister on community consultation.

Copies of this material can be requested from the HISAC Office.

## Profile: Jo Rangooni

Jo has lived most of her life in the rural Manawatu and Whanganui regions, where she taught in rural schools for over 35 years. Particular achievements in her teaching career were working with local iwi to establish Te Reo in Feilding schools, leading the introduction of computers in schools in the district and introducing the education for gifted children strategy for rural schools.

She was the inaugural Chair of the Bulls and District Community Trust which provided community input into the Rangiteki District Council around infrastructure and primary health care issues. The Trust recently won the prestigious Australasian Main Street Award for community development.

Jo is a member of the Whanganui Regional PHO Community Advisory Committee and has served on a number of committee's and groups for the Whanganui District Health Board. In this later capacity she has been involved with ensuring the health needs of rural communities are served, the Strategy for Older People and the Whanganui Diabetes Governance Group.

She is passionate about ensuring all people have access to quality health services and receive fair treatment from the health system.

Jo is married to Rauf who is of Pakistani descent with family living all over the world, and they have travelled and lived in many countries overseas.

#### **Key media items of interest**

- Dominion Post - 10 August - One of the world's largest health software providers advise that New Zealand's electronic health records systems could be around US\$300 million.
- NZ Doctor - 12 August – Privacy Commissioner discusses concerns around the plans to increase the accessibility and ease of transmission of health information in New Zealand.
- NZ Doctor - 12 August - GPs urge the Ministry to action the GP2GP project.
- ComputerWorld NZ - 17 August - Funding hampers health information interoperability quest.
- ComputerWorld NZ - 17 August - Health report pushes for national shared service agency for the delivery of IT and other services to the sector.
- ComputerWorld NZ - 20 August - DHB's shared information system not to proceed in its present form.
- Insite Magazine - August - Developments in Australia regarding electronic medication management and how they might be applied in New Zealand.
- Scoop – 3 September – Health.nz domain name launched for accredited health providers. See: [www.moh.govt.nz/healthdomain](http://www.moh.govt.nz/healthdomain).
- ComputerWorldNZ – 28 September – Health sector tackles patient record access
- Scoop – 30 September 2009. Waikato District Health Board. Access for GPs and community health professionals to on-line resources through Waikato DHB library.
- ComputerWorldNZ – 5 October – Stronger health data breach notifications called for in the US
- NZ Doctor – 9 October – NZ's first telehealth pilot begins for 10 patients with COPD and heart failure
- NZ Doctor – 9 October – Take heed of 'document' mantra. A discussion of the recent Health and Disability case involving the Palm clinic in Palmerston North.

#### **In the next issue ...**

We will focus on the Safe Sharing of Health Information initiative from the Ministry of Health and feature highlights from the HINZ conference.

Feedback and comments are welcomed - [enquiries@HISAC.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@HISAC.govt.nz)