

December 2007

Newsletter

HISAC Newsletter



A Note from Paul Cressey

Chair Health Information Strategy Action Committee

It's been a very busy year for all of us in the HISAC Committee and Office, with good progress across many of the Action Zones. Of particular note has been the work accomplished around ePharmacy, eLabs, eReferrals and primary care information.

The Health Informatics NZ (HINZ) Conference, held on 29-30 October in Rotorua, was attended by a HISAC contingent. It was a very rewarding experience, as Stephen Mann relates below. We used that opportunity to present our focus areas for the coming year.

We have a full work programme planned for 2008.

I'd like to wish everyone in the sector a very happy holiday and compliments of the season!



HISAC members and staff at 'HINZ'. Pictured are (from left): Tony Cooke, Chai Chuah, Dougal McKechnie, Michael Meakin, Helmut Modlik, Andrea Pettett, Harry Pert and Paul Cressey.

We need to innovate, cooperate and not rest on our laurels...

- a snapshot of the HINZ Conference from HISAC's Action Zone Development Leader, Stephen Mann.

The Rotorua HINZ event showcased innovation and progress in health information systems here and in Scotland, Canada and the US.

A key message for us in the New Zealand health sector not to 'rest on our laurels' was brought home by a presentation from Kaiser Permanente, a care organisation based in Oakland CA, who deployed the world's largest civilian electronic health records system and then carried that momentum forward to build innovative workforce and access alternatives. Inspiring stuff.

Similarly, Canada's Infoway had to push through early criticism to now enjoy strong regional and consumer support.

Adding a local note to this theme, Brendon Kelly, Acting Deputy Director-General, Information, at our Health Ministry, challenged us to build on, and move beyond, previous innovations. Likewise, a panel of informatics gurus from DHBs debated how IT projects interact with wider business owners and their implementation issues.

So, the key for moving forward 'in the Zones', for me, lies in continuing to innovate, debate, build on past successes, and cooperate to enable future excellence for the health information systems of New Zealand.



Trevor Hodge, Senior Vice President - Investment Strategies and Alliances, Canada Health Infoway; Paul Cressey, Chair - HISAC; Dougal McKechnie, HISAC Office Manager; Joseph Blizzard, Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy, Wingate University, North Carolina, at HINZ

The right information, in the right place, at the right time.

In the Zone: Action Zone 5 - eLabs

The vision for the eLabs Action Zone is for diagnostic laboratory test ordering and reporting information to be easily accessed and shared in a secure and timely manner.

HISAC is championing a project being led by the NZ Health IT Cluster to run an eLabs proof of concept project.

The project team consists of primary care, PHO, DHB and Laboratory representatives from Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty and key vendors of primary care, hospital and laboratory systems.

The project has two teams, one focusing on technical requirements and the other on clinical and business process requirements.

The technical team has now completed its work on the draft technical architecture to support several different implementation approaches.

An initial meeting of primary and secondary care clinicians was held in Rotorua in November. Those clinicians who attended expressed enthusiastic support for the project. The next phase of work will focus on developing a proof of concept proposal and finalising detailed documentation to support an implementation proposal early in 2008.

Next Issue:

- Health Network/Connected Health
- ePharmacy
- Action Zone priorities for 2008

Key Directions for the Information Environment in Primary Healthcare

Key Directions for the Information Environment is a Ministry of Health project which identifies five objectives to support the Primary Health Care Strategy from an information perspective:

- Support for self-care
- Support for tailored care
- Identifying and responding to population health needs
- Enabling the co-ordination of care and integration of services
- Improving performance and evidence-based decisions

HISAC has been working closely with the Key Directions project team to ensure alignment of the project to HIS-NZ and to ensure sector expectations are met.

For more information, go to:
www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/phcs-projects-keydirections

The 'GP2GP' initiative

During consultation on the Key Directions draft strategy earlier in 2007, the wider health and disability sector considered 'enabling GPs to exchange information electronically' as one of the top five most desired capabilities.

Supporting this, HISAC is promoting collaborative efforts to define primary care information through an initiative called 'GP2GP', as part of the work around Action Zone 10 (Primary Care Information).

HISAC members agreed in July of this year to endorse the Concept Design phase of the GP2GP project. The project will eventually develop into the 'Provider-to-Provider' component of the Key Directions project.

There are a number of important streams to the GP2GP initiative:

1. It will see the development of primary care standards, such as a general practice core dataset. These foundation efforts will enable linkages to be made between primary and secondary care in later phases of the project.
2. It will deliver a standard business process for patient record transfer.
3. It will enable the transfer of core data between GPs' Practice Management Systems (PMSs), along with patient records in an easily readable, secure, searchable format.

Quality and Information for General Practice – 'qi4gp'

The 'qi4gp' project, which is being driven by national general practice organisations, seeks to ensure general practice is able to provide the best quality care for patients, provide strong clinical governance to ensure best practice is followed, and is able to uniformly access information for population health requirements.

HISAC has engaged with qi4gp around concerns over the functionality of current PMSs, and recently supported a workshop that discussed the use of the Open Strategies collaboration framework and tool to facilitate grassroots engagement across general practice around quality and information.

For more information, go to:
www.qi4gp.org.nz

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