

October 2007

# Newsletter

HISAC Newsletter



## A Note from Paul Cressey

Chair Health Information Strategy Action Committee

### MedInfo – Brisbane

In August I travelled with the HISAC Manager, Dougal McKechnie, to attend the MedInfo Conference in Brisbane, Australia, which brought together the leading international thinkers on health informatics.

It was a fantastic opportunity to network and meet colleagues from around the world. There was an impressive line-up of speakers and presentations. For example, the ehealth coordinator for the WHO, Dr Kwankam, announced a new collaborative effort to develop a global health informatics workforce and share intellectual property to better deliver health knowledge worldwide. While in Brisbane we also took the opportunity to attend a number of meetings organised by the international body responsible for the SNOMED clinical terminology (of which New Zealand is a member), and the National eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA) - HISAC's counterpart organisation in Australia.

These are relevant matters very much in the forefront at HISAC with our work on the HIS-NZ Action Zones. This issue of our *Newsletter* updates you on progress in some crucial areas, most notably electronic pharmacy, health information standards, and the Health Network.

### New HISAC members

I am also delighted to announce that HISAC has two new members: Graeme



Graeme Osborne

Osborne and Michael Ludbrook. Graeme Osborne is the General Manager Information Management at ACC. Graeme joined ACC from Statistics New Zealand where he was Group Manager, Information and Business Services. He also played a key role in the e-government strategy across both central and local government and holds the position of Vice-Chair of the e-GIF Management committee. Graeme has a passion for the implementation of value-added business models in all types of public and private



Michael Ludbrook

organisations, which require a focus on people first, and then the right balance of process and technology.

Michael Ludbrook has over 30 years experience in a wide range of business disciplines, and since 1999 has been a management consultant specialising in major strategic change. In addition to his consulting assignments, Michael holds or has held a number of Directorships and Community Trust positions including Chairman of Waikato District Health Board and District Health Boards NZ.

## Health Network continues to grow

Registrations to join the NZ Health Network are coming in at the rate of about 30 a month. It is anticipated that over the next six months the Network will grow to over 1,000 connections!

### More Choice – TelstraClear joins the Health Network

TelstraClear have been going through the accreditation process to provide VPN products alongside Telecom NZ and Healthlink. TelstraClear and the existing

vendors are working together with HISAC to ensure full interconnection between all the different VPN products. This will involve a new arrangement provided by a specialist company, scheduled to be up and running over the coming months.

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

# In the Zone: Action Zone 4 - ePharmacy

ePharmacy will enable the right medicines to be dispensed to the right patients across various care settings. It will involve a national, common reference system for the electronic transmission of prescription information. HISAC sees ePharmacy being delivered through a cohesive and efficient set of standards, electronic systems, decision support systems and business processes.

## Leader's Forum

Held on the 27th of July, the ePharmacy Leaders' Forum gathered together 40 sector leaders in this field.

The leaders gave their support to a HISAC-led initiative that will see a common approach for both primary and secondary care in the development and implementation of a medicine message and medicines list for the sector. This will provide enhanced quality and safety in the use of medicines and support the initiative announced by the Minister of Health for the bedside verification of medicines in hospitals.

## Forum Outcomes

Following on from the Forum, HISAC expects to announce shortly the members of several expert groups for the National ePharmacy Dictionary Application project and a GP to Community Pharmacy Application Pilot project. Another group will form to assess the various components of a Medicines Terminology needed for the New Zealand environment.

## Expert Advisory Committee

HISAC has established an Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) for ePharmacy Business Process and Messaging Standards.

The EAC has 22 members, representing a range of sector stakeholders.

The EAC currently targets releasing a first draft of the standards for public consultation in December.

# Standards for Consumer Safety

The health sector is a complex network of organisations which all use information and communication systems to help deliver, manage and monitor healthcare delivery. Health information standards support these processes and enhance patient safety. A health information standard is developed in a consensus-based manner, resulting in a document that ensures the credibility and acceptance of – and sets a benchmark for – the use of an information product, process or service within the health sector.

## HISO – the Standards Engine Room

HISO (the Health Information Standards Organisation), established in 2003, has the role – as a Sub-committee of HISAC – to champion the use of standards and to ensure that they are practical, and fit into the health system as 'living documents' over their full life cycle.

There are currently two full-time standards officers: Joseph Lindsay and Angie Quinn, supported by Michael Meakin, the Service Delivery Leader for HISAC. The Sub-committee is chaired by David Rankin, with members drawn from across the sector.

The amount of hard work put in by the HISO standards team and the members of the various EACs is shown by the recent publication of a number of important health information standards. They are:

- Ethnicity Data Protocols
- Health Practitioner Index – data set and code set
- Primary Care System Vendor Accreditation and Change Management
- Pathology Observation Code Sets for lab orders and results (NZPOCs) – based on LOINC
- Data Concept Repository Standard
- Referrals, Status and Discharges Messaging and Business Process Standards and Implementation Guide

- Pathology and Radiology Messaging Standard and Implementation Guide
- Endorsement of ICD-10-AM and ICD-O Codes
- Endorsement for the use of ISO 11179
- Endorsement of Geospatial Referencing by Coordinates
- Endorsement of use of HL7 v2.4 Messaging

Well over 200 people from across the sector have been involved in the publication of these standards. And HISO has identified a significant number of new potential standards that may emerge from the Action Zones. HISO's current work programme includes the following standards:

- Online Forms Server Interfaces
- NZPOCs 2
- Health Information Workforce System (Sector-wide)
- PRIMHED National Mental Health Integration Project
- Authentication and Security Framework
- Pharmaceutical Business Process and Messaging
- CVD and Diabetes Primary Care Set

We will keep you informed about progress with these standards and other aspects of HISO's work in future issues.

More information about standards can be found on the HISAC website:  
<http://www.HISAC.govt.nz/>

## Next Issue:

- Health Network Interconnection Agreement
- eLabs (Action Zone 5)
- Primary Care (Action Zone 10): 'GP2GP' (Patient notes transfer; Primary Care Minimum Dataset), and 'qi4gp' (Quality and Information for General Practice initiatives).

## How to Contact us

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