

February 2008

Newsletter

HISAC Newsletter

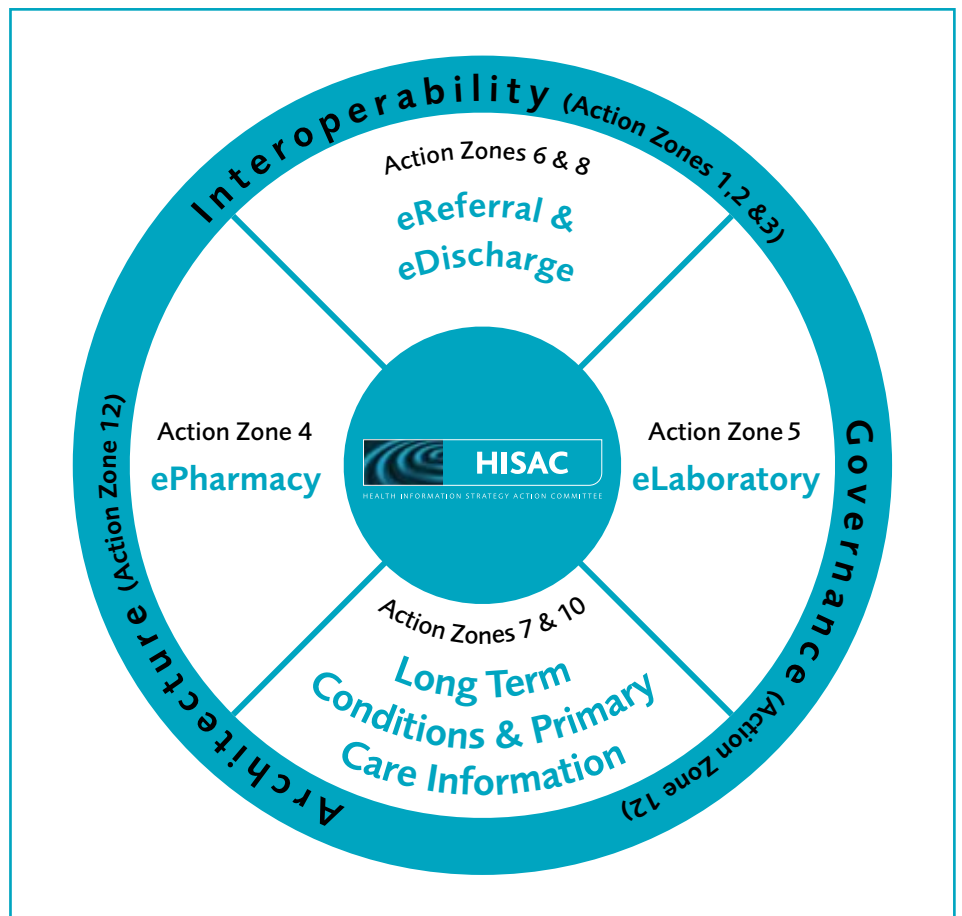


A Note from Paul Cressey

Chair, Health Information Strategy Action Committee

Looking ahead to the first few months of the year, the approved HISAC business plan will see activities under way across all 12 Action Zones. We'll be providing leadership by delivering, championing and supporting priority Action Zone activities. In this and subsequent issues of the Newsletter, we'll be explaining HISAC's work programme for 2008 in detail and how we're going to achieve it Zone by Zone.

The diagram on the right is an excellent 'in the round' version of the relationship between the Action Zones. The primary focus areas for the year are ePharmacy, eLabs, eReferrals and eDischarges, as well as Primary Care and Long Term Conditions. All Action Zones depend upon three encompassing areas: governance, interoperability and architecture.



In the Zone: ePharmacy

There has been significant activity on a number of fronts in respect of the ePharmacy Action Zone. This includes:

Championing the cause

The ePharmacy Strategic Champions Group is made up of senior representatives from agencies including Pharmac, the Pharmacy Council, Pharmacy Guild, GP Leaders Forum, District Health Boards and the Quality Improvement Committee.

Collectively this group provides strategic advice to HISAC on matters relating to this Action Zone. The Group held their first meeting in late October 2007 and requested that HISAC develop an action plan for ePharmacy that outlines the key components of work necessary to advance this Action Zone in 2008. That action plan has been developed and will be presented to the Group when they meet early in 2008.

ePharmacy standards

The HISO-led Expert Advisory Committee developing the ePharmacy Messaging and Business Process Standards has now met five times. Draft standards are expected to be issued for public comment in March. This Expert Advisory Committee is made up of 22 experts from across Pharmacy, General Practice, District Health Boards, and Health Informatics.

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

Medications terminology

HISO has approved the establishment of an Expert Advisory Committee to consider developing a medicines terminology for New Zealand. A terms of reference has been approved and organisations are being invited to nominate members.

The potential benefits of the work of this group are significant and reach across the whole sector. For instance, nomenclature support is crucial to the safe selection of the correct medication when prescribing with electronic tools; also, a unique medicine ID can close the loop between prescribing and dispensing systems and further support coordinated efforts to reduce medication error.

Experts from the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) presented to the Technical Group on the Australian work that's been done, itself based on the UK NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices.

Early in 2008, HISAC will be seeking expressions of interest to develop a pilot



project to test the use of the Pharmacy Messaging Standard and the use of a universal medications list in New Zealand. It is hoped to have a pilot up and running by the last quarter of 2008.

A group of HISAC members take a break from deliberations on ePharmacy. From left: Brendan Kelly, Chai Chuah, Tim Gardner, Graeme Osborne, Andrea Pettett, Paul Cressey and Tony Cooke.

Fully connected Network

As highlighted in the October 2007 Newsletter, the Health Network (Action Zone 1) continues to grow and now has almost 1,000 health and disability sector organisations signed up to use one of the accredited network products.

To support this increased growth, HISAC has focused on the development of an interconnection agreement with the Network product suppliers (Telecom NZ, Healthlink and TelstraClear). This agreement will ensure that all the various network products are linked up ("interoperable"). In practice this means that health practitioners using one supplier will be able to seamlessly connect with other practitioners using any other supplier.

The most recent supplier to be accredited to offer Health Network products is TelstraClear. Their contribution will add considerably to the operation of the Health Network.

Health Network Code of Practice

A HISO Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) is reviewing the Health Network Code of Practice (HNCOP), as part of its wider review of Authentication and Security issues across the health and disability sector. All accredited vendors involved in the Health Network are represented in the review. The EAC is expected to report around mid-2008, when its findings will be subject to wider public comment.

In brief

- We are pleased to welcome Steve Martin who joined the HISAC Office in January as the New Zealand Health Network Administrator.
- The HISAC website has been given a much needed extreme makeover. Watch out for functionality improvements and other enhancements in the coming months.

<http://www.HISAC.govt.nz>

Connected Health is coming!

Graeme Osborne, who was introduced as a new HISAC member in the October 2007 issue of this Newsletter, is the Chair of HISAC's Infrastructure Sub Committee, which governs the Health Network. He is also a member of the Connected Health Steering Group.

Presently, HISAC's Infrastructure Sub Committee and the HISAC Office are working closely with the Ministry of Health's Connected Health workstream. This strong relationship is vital to ensure a smooth transition to the future Connected Health environment which will build on the current Health Network.

Next Issue:

- Health Information Consumer Forum
- eReferrals and Discharges

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