

Standards for Referrals and Discharges to Benefit Patient Health

Health outcomes for patients will be improved with the development of Standards for Referrals and Discharges – an initiative that has received overwhelming sector support.

Ensuring better, more efficient management of health information will also improve the cost-effectiveness of care.

HISO is taking a leadership role in the development of these nationally endorsed standards.

A Working Group has met to discuss issues that were raised at the December 2004 Summit. The group, which includes representatives from various areas in the sector, has put together a project proposal that has been considered and endorsed by HISO as a Standards Project.

The Referrals and Discharges Standards Project will recognise:

- The importance of including Status Reports
- The need to align with national and international developments in this area

- The complexity of information flows between providers and the need to focus initially on linkages between GPs and hospitals while at the same time taking into account the needs, opportunities and potential for use by other providers
- The requirement to accommodate New Zealand specific codes, and to align with other e-health initiatives
- Technical issues such as migration from, and backward compatibility with, existing referrals, status reports and discharges systems.

What are the project priorities?

To produce two standards that will cover messaging, data sets and semantics; and business processes and implementation.

What's next?

An Expert Committee is being appointed to develop the Standards. The project is expected to commence formally in June.

HISO Launches New Website

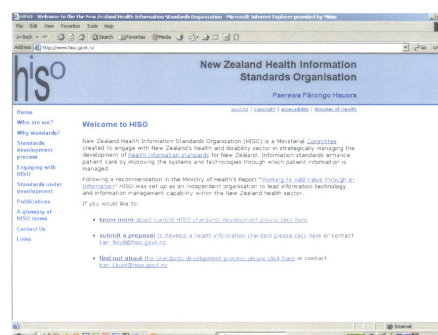
We are pleased to announce the birth of the HISO Website! Want to find out what HISO is, why it was created and what it does?

At www.hiso.govt.nz you will find the information and tools you need to engage with the world of information standards development as it relates to New Zealand's health and disability sector.

- Meet the people who make up the HISO Committee and administrative team
- Discover why information standards are so important for New Zealand's health and disability sector
- Learn about standards development and how to become involved in the process.

The site has updates on current standards projects being managed by HISO. You can also download published documents and link to useful related sites.

We want to make the website as interactive as possible and welcome your comments and suggestions.



Connecting the PMS and External Services

Standard for interactive communication between Practice Management Systems (PMS) and External Services – Phase One

Developing national standards and specifications to interconnect the PMS and external systems is on its way. A proposal will detail how national standards are to be developed and will mark phase one of the programme.

General Practice interacts with a variety of external services including PHO, ACC and the Ministry of Health. Most of the current interactive services available to general practice use different architectures and standards to implement the service. This causes duplication of effort within the sector.

The proposal will look at how the sector can most benefit from the development of standards in this area.

New Primary Health Care Practice Management Systems PAS Available

Primary Health Care Practice Management Systems (PHCPMS) Publicly Available Specification (PAS) defines the functionality expected of PHCPMS.

When implemented the PHCPMS PAS will assist practices to meet current and future PHCPMS requirements. While the specification will be voluntary for the PHCPMS vendor, they are guidelines for purchasers and will provide standards for developing and implementing sector wide changes and enhancements.

The specification was developed by Standards New Zealand with HISO's support and was published in April.

HISO Standards Support Health Sector – Progress Update

Ethnicity Data Protocols for the Health and Disability Sector have been developed for people collecting ethnicity data. These will assist people working in the sector to use appropriate tools and training. Check out the HISO website to access the protocols at www.hiso.govt.nz

Faster, more consistent information to support integrated health is the key benefit of **Health Level 7 (HL7) Standards**. HL7 has been endorsed by HISO as a National Standard for Health Information Communications and Messaging in New Zealand. HL7 standards are available at www.h17.org

The New Zealand Pathology Observation Code Sets will be published in May. This creates a New Zealand subset of LOINC (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes). A code set has been developed for ordering and reporting of

observations for a number of laboratory tests used in the health sector. Next up the project will be developing a HL7 messaging standard and protocols to ensure that codes are used consistently and appropriately within the sector.

HISO has developed the Health **Provider Index Code Set and Data Set standards** that define the data that may be provided in the Health Practitioner Index. These standards will be published in May.

A national health provider index of health practitioners such as the **Health Practitioner Index (HPI)** was identified as a top 10 priority in the 2001 WAVE (Working to Add Value through E-Health) Report.

Have any questions? Please contact:

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