

Media Release - HISO leads new initiative for health information

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Over eighty health care professionals, administrators, and Health IT vendors recently gathered in Wellington to discuss and debate issues around the development of national standards for the electronic transfer of patient referral and discharge summaries.

The strong support for the event, which was organised by the New Zealand Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO), demonstrates the health sector's interest in nationally endorsed standards for the electronic transfer of patient information.

"The response to our invitation was a real milestone for both HISO and the sector", said the HISO Chair, Paul Cressey. "The number of people who put aside their time to attend and contribute so positively was fantastic," he said.

The New Zealand health care system is a complex one; patients typically receive managed care through a network of practitioners, organisations, and facilities. For some time now patient information has been captured and transferred through a variety of methods. The new initiative is the first step to achieving systems that communicate with each other efficiently and effectively thus ensuring good management of patient outcomes.

"A nationally endorsed standard for the electronic transfer of referrals and discharge summaries would be an important step forward in improving the delivery of health care," said Mr Cressey.

Developing such a standard would also provide a competitive edge for New Zealand Health IT developers, help benchmark New Zealand systems against international standards and best practices, and provide better information for decision analysis and support by health providers.

"As the Ministerial Committee charged with the strategic management of national health information standards, HISO is well placed to lead this project. We look forward to engaging with the health sector to make it happen."