



## Core and Common Data Concepts – drafting the list

The Patients First programme (formerly known as qi4GP) supports the New Zealand primary health care sector in improving quality of patient outcomes by obtaining a clearer focus on information.<sup>1</sup>

There are a number of slightly different "data concepts" and definitions of data items are in use in primary health care systems. This has partly arisen because there has been a lack of firm direction from an authoritative source about the need for a standardised dataset. For historical reasons, each programme of work, or vendor system have developed their own. With the recent focus of the National Health IT Board on interoperability and, in particular, on continuity of care between primary and secondary, the following workstreams are key focus areas:

- (1) GP2GP transfer
- (2) E-Discharges
- (3) E-Referrals
- (4) Community ePrescribing
- (5) Identify (NHI, HPI, Address)

There are many overlapping data concepts in each of these functions and it is important that they are aligned, and that vendor products use a common standard where this is clearly identified. The National Health IT Board, through its HISO standards development process, wants to see a set of standards developed from these projects which confirms the alignment of common data concepts, items and definitions which are used to pass information from one system to another (and particularly across the work-streams outlined above).

In September 2010, the National Health IT Board requested the Patients First Programme establish a working group to compile a core and common list of data concepts. This was not to create a new list – rather a consolidation of what data concepts are already defined and a suggested list of what are missing.

### Goal

To:

- enable collaboration.
- join the dots (many of which exist already)

By:

- standardising the content of data interchange/Information flows
- standardising data transfer/exchange
- identifying a single place/focal point for a standard (i.e. where to put it)
- defining a maintenance process and governance (i.e. how to maintain it)

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<sup>1</sup> The Patients First programme (formerly known as qi4GP) is co-sponsored by RNZCGP and General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ). It is funded via a primary health IT grant approved by the National Health IT Board. For further information about the Programme and its constituent projects, please refer to the website [www.patientsfirst.org.nz](http://www.patientsfirst.org.nz) or contact us on [info@patientsfirst.org.nz](mailto:info@patientsfirst.org.nz)



### **The Approach**

A technical working group of the Sector Architects Group was co-opted to undertake a series of workshops to draft a set of data concepts for submission to HISO (the Health Information Standards body in New Zealand).

The group met over a series of three workshops with interim work. The resulting list of data concepts was supplied in draft to the Sector Architects Group and to HISO. The Auckland eReferrals Project is also using the list to complement their adoption and use of the eForms standard.

### **Current Status**

The draft list is now with HISO and the Sector Architects Group as a draft list for consideration and refinement over time. HISO is setting a process in place for the review and on-going update of such lists and are reviewing the adoption of a web-based tool so people in the sector can view the set of concepts.

The draft list is available on request and is under the custodianship of the National Health Board Business Unit's Information Strategy Management Team.

If you have any questions regarding this, or would like to receive updates on progress, please contact Andrew Terris on [andrew.terris@patientsfirst.org.nz](mailto:andrew.terris@patientsfirst.org.nz)