



GP2GP –Update

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History

GP2GP began its journey with the Health Information Strategy Action Committee (HISAC) late in 2006. The capability to electronically transfer Patient Records in primary care was identified as a sector priority as part of the sector engagement for Health Information Strategy for New Zealand (HIS-NZ) 2005. HISAC included General Practice Patient Record Transfer as a required standard and capability as part of Action Zone 10: Primary Care Information and placed it on its roadmap for delivery in mid-2008. After confirming that there were no other primary care medical records transfer initiatives in New Zealand, and after convincing all of the five major Primary Health Care Practice Management System (PHCPMS) vendors to participate, GP2GP was launched as a project in July 2007. HISAC worked with the Primary Care Information Management Group to establish a project reference group, which worked together to define Concept Requirements for an electronic Patient Record transfer solution for general practice. The project then began to work with the PHCPMS vendors to develop an Implementation Guide based on these requirements

The key driver for this project was the inability to effectively transfer electronic Patient Records between general practices¹. Every year, over 375,000 New Zealanders change their General Practitioner's. While almost all General Practitioner's use computerised PHCPMS systems, and while almost every New Zealander has an electronic Patient Record, these Patient Records are being mailed across the country as hard copies and manually re-entered, if at all, every time a Patient changes their General Practitioner. The current process for manually transferring Patient Records in general practice is neither person centred, nor is it provider friendly. The absence of any standards for or capability to effectively transfer electronic Patient Records fails to provide relevant historical information in the right place at the right time to support ongoing quality care.

The current process of manually transferring Patient Records results in:

- compromised Patient safety and quality of care
- loss of productivity
- inconvenience to Patients & staff ².

The key objectives for this programme are to deliver a system that provides the capability to electronically transfer Patient Records within General Practice that:

- is efficient and effective

¹ GP2GP Investment Concept Brief v1.1

² GP2GP Investment Concept Brief v1.1

is widely used because General Practitioner's and Patients trust that information will be safely transferred and confidentiality maintained

Current Status

The four major PMS Vendors in New Zealand formally launched the initial development cycle for GP2GP in June 2010 with the final agreements being reached at the end of August 2010. Draft Specifications, Implementation Guide, Requirements and Messaging documents had been published and were used as the basis for this development work.

Significant effort went into refining the Implementation Guide and associated Dataset with final agreement reached in November 2010 for an HL7 2.4 compliant message using CDA for the transmission of the patients' files in a granular form.

A common API (Toolkit) was completed during this time with the sole purpose of producing an output file consistent with the agreed final specification, irrespective what PMS product it was interfacing with for the transfer. This resulted in a common platform for both input and output of the patients file.

GP2GP is now in the final throes of Vendor in-house development and testing with the four major PMS Vendors, and will be kicking off the interoperability testing over the coming months.

We have identified a few critical issues that still need to be properly addressed, file size and minimum PC specifications being the top priority, however we are making good progress.

As a result of issues uncovered, and re-drafting the initial data specification, the original projected timeline has proven to be optimistic. Unfortunately this means general availability is now scheduled for inclusion in the first major vendor release post testing. We are projecting April timeframe for it to be ready for final Interoperability testing and becoming available for inclusion in a commercial release. We would expect early adopters to be using the facility in June, and by the end of June we expect to be in a position to kick off the project closure reports and reviews.

Next Steps

Finalise the mechanisms to address the File Size issues remaining compliant with the Specifications and Securities in place.

Establish process to confirm Practice technology platforms and ascertain impact of .NET 3.5 support.

Finalise environment for Interoperability and kick off User Acceptance Testing

Collaborate on launch and deployment plans with Vendors, Stakeholders, Support Networks and NHITB

Key Contacts

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