



NZ Electronic Prescription Service



Key stakeholders from across the health and disability sector agreed there would be clear benefits from the NZ Electronic Prescription Service (NZePS), and confirmed their support.

The first phase of the NZePS project took place in Auckland in March with a general practice and community pharmacy as a proof of concept to validate the solution technically. The participating practice management systems were My Practice (general practice) and HealthSoft's LOTS (community pharmacy).

The level of attendance and enthusiasm at a demonstration of the features, held in June 2011 were evidence of the level of interest and excitement being generated around the NZ ePrescription Service.

Several benefits were immediately obvious:

- It was apparent to everyone that directly importing the prescription information into the dispensing system reduced the need for manual entry.
- NZePS utilises the Universal List of Medicines (NZULM) as a key feature, and the immediate benefit of using this standard around medicines terminology was noted. Community pharmacists did not have to match a medicine from a prescriber's system to one within their dispensing system.
- The GP system was automatically updated once the patient had collected their medicines from the dispensary, and this record will be available to the prescriber the next time the patient's file was opened. The prescriber would be able to tell immediately a) that the medication was collected by the patient from the dispensary and b) whether there was a change to the medication. Best of all, this this didn't create extra work ... it all happened in the background.

Next steps

The next phases of the trial are currently being finalised. We are working closely with a number of DHB's around the country who have expressed strong commitment to participating in this trial.

Working with current vendors, and including two additional GP PMS vendors, we will extend the service to two selected regions where we have good vendor representation with communities of care – GP and Pharmacies in close proximity to generate the prescription volumes to make the trial effective. This is anticipated for kick-off commencing October, completing by the end of November.

A final phase is planned to start early in the new year covering a further two regions and will encompass all four GP PMS and both Pharmacy vendor systems.

This will be the final phase prior to national roll-out. During this phase, the HISO standards-compliant version, which is in development, will be tested. This will also incorporate the initial electronic prescription dataset with a view to validating it as part of the final ePrescription Standard currently under review. There will also be an independent evaluation of the service to confirm the key objectives have been delivered:

TO PROVE to patients and clinicians that the ePrescription service is of value and can work safely and effectively

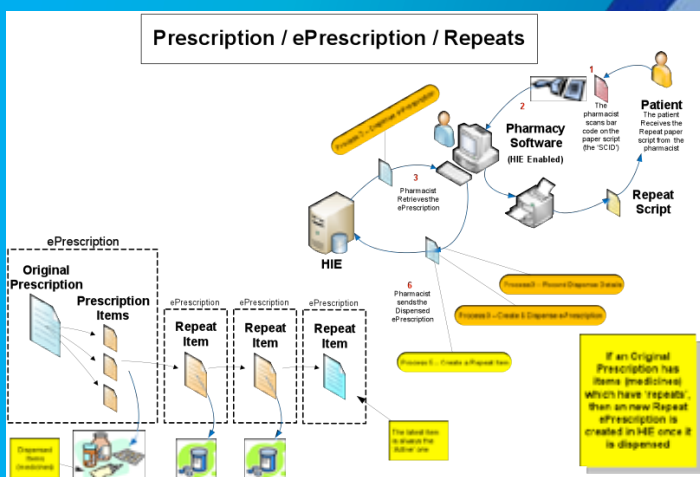
TO ESTABLISH an on-going governance model for the provision of the NZ ePrescription Service model

TO CONFIRM the commercial and funding models for this service.

Clinical consultation throughout the trial, together results from this evaluation, will be incorporated into the National Service during the rollout in 2012.

To finish...

The release of the NZ ePrescription Service should be seen as first steps, not the destination, and we expect on-going improvements in the technologies that contribute to shared care by improving the communication of information between GP practices and community pharmacies.



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NZULM

a universal list of medicines

The New Zealand Universal List of Medicines ('NZULM') is intended to provide an up-to-date and trusted, one-stop-shop of core and commonly used information about medicines (and other products and devices where appropriate) for New Zealand.

The NZULM brings together medicines information from Medsafe, PHARMAC and the Pharmacy Guild into a single standardised product, utilising the "common medicines language" in the New Zealand Medicines Terminology ('NZMT'). The NZMT is a master list of medicines (and other products and devices where appropriate) for New Zealand in which a standardised approach is used to name and describe each medicine.

The NZULM is updated regularly, is accessible via a single website, and is intended to be New Zealand's national

medicines list for universal use right across the health and disability sector.

The NZULM will form a cornerstone of the health system that supports consistent information content, standardised clinical processes and a technical environment which allows for the safe handling, sharing and reporting of medicines information.

The NZULM is intended for use – as a standardised data set – by those prescribing, dispensing or administering medicines, those who create medicines information databases and systems, and those who analyse and report about medicines. It can be used as a master database (a 'drug dictionary'), or to augment existing databases. The NZULM is accessible via a single website, obviating the need to search multiple sources for similar medicines.

New Zealand Universal List of Medicines

A one-stop-shop of core and commonly used information about medicines for New Zealand

The NZULM will form a cornerstone of the health system, supporting consistent information content, standardised clinical processes and a technical environment allowing for the safe handling, sharing and reporting of medicines information across all care situations.

THE PROBLEM

Until now, there has been no common way of naming and describing a medicine in New Zealand.

For example, two patients will often describe a medicine differently. Even subtle naming differences can impact electronic systems, not accuracy.

Pharmaceutical listing varies by pharmaceutical label listing.

It is inconsistent in mg/L, ml or amount, etc.

Varying descriptions of the same medicine impact the patient experience and can cause, across all care settings:

- Errors prescribing, dispensing and administration
- Inefficient clinical and business processes
- Duplication of effort in assembling lists
- Unreliable medicines related data and lists
- Compromised clinical decision support services

THE SOLUTION (www.nzulm.org.nz)

Bring together medicines information... from Medsafe, PHARMAC and the Pharmacy Guild into a single standardised product, utilising the "common medicines language" in the New Zealand Medicines Terminology.

It brings existing medicines information together... ..using a common terminology ...into a single, trusted source of medicines information

Medsafe
Regulates therapeutic products in New Zealand by pre-marketing approval of products, and post-marketing surveillance.

PHARMAC
Provides updates on what medicines are subsidised, and on what conditions.

Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand
Allocates the Pharmacist identifier to a product, where appropriate.

Approved?

Subsidised?

Available?

The New Zealand Medicines Terminology uses a standardised approach to name and describe each medicine.

NOW (Release 1)

Descriptions and codes used in the NZULM are based on international standards:

- WHO-CT (medicine terminology)
- CDX-CTM (supplier product codes)
- WHO-ATC (therapeutic classification)

The NZULM also contains Pharmacodes[®] to ensure compatibility with existing systems for claiming and supplier ordering.

The NZULM (Release 1) was released in July 2011.

NEXT (Release 2)

Content

- The ingredients, strength, form and route information is provided in a more granular format
- WHO-ATC coding at all appropriate terminology levels

Website

- Improved website search functionality implemented to enhance ease of searching and broader search options
- Access to more granular medicine information

Release 2 of the NZULM is scheduled for October 2011.

IN THE FUTURE

The NZULM will form a cornerstone of the health system, supporting consistent information content, standardised clinical processes and a technical environment allowing for the safe handling, sharing and reporting of medicines information.

Includes My List of Medicines.

A patient's trusted and up to date personal medicines list which follows them across all care situations.

A NATIONAL MEDICINES FORMULARY FOR NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Medicines Formulary builds on the NZULM and provides information to aid clinical decision making. Information provided includes medicine indications, cautions, contraindications, side effects, interactions, storage & stability-based disease management advice in so much as it relates to pharmaceutical options.



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