



HealthConnect SA is funded by the Australian Government and is delivered through SA Health.

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The HealthConnect SA team has had a busy start to the year as it prepares for the deployment of the Primary Care Sidebar and a range of electronic clinical support tools to general practitioners and allied health providers in South Australia.

Having supported the delivery of secure broadband and secure messaging, we are confident that the majority of health care providers in the primary care setting are now well placed to not only participate in future e-health initiatives, but fully utilise the Primary Care Sidebar which we hope in the longer term will host the web-based shared care plan.

HealthConnect SA is currently funded to operate until June 2009, however we continue to work to secure longer term funding to support the deployment of the Primary Care Sidebar and build and deliver a shared web-based care plan

to health care providers and consumers in South Australia.

In this issue we update you on our activities and discuss how South Australian healthcare providers continue to embrace e-health initiatives such as secure electronic messaging.

I encourage you to forward this newsletter to anyone who you feel may be interested in our activities and contact our team directly if you would like any further information.

Andrew McAlindon
Director, HealthConnect SA

e-Health Care Planning System

Stage one of the e-Health Care Planning System has not only seen the delivery of a prototype web-based care planning module, but also a range of electronic clinical support tools to facilitate improved communication between health care providers and assist in the prevention and management of chronic disease.

HealthConnect SA is working in collaboration with the Divisions of General Practice to deliver these tools via the Primary Care Sidebar to general practitioners and allied health providers that are listed on the SA Health Provider Registry. The following tools are undergoing final user acceptance testing and will be available via a simple download wizard from May onwards.

- **HPRy Quicklook** – a new desktop search capability for South Australian providers listed on the HPRy, with fast and easy access to other listed providers and dedicated patient resources including maps and contact details.
- **Clinical Audit Tool** – including **CAT Prompts**, an individual patient prompt delivered from CAT population risk searches via the Primary Care Sidebar;

allowing practices using Medical Director to design, implement and monitor health promotion campaigns tailored to the needs of their patient population. (available to GP practices only)

- A range of electronic clinical assessment tools currently widely used and until now only available in a paper based format:
 - > **K10** (Kessler Psychological Distress Scale) – a 10 item self-report questionnaire aimed at measuring current anxiety and depressive symptoms.
 - > **DASS** (Depression Anxiety Stress Scale) – a self-report questionnaire to measure the negative emotional states of depression, anxiety and stress.
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Primary Care Sidebar

SA healthcare providers embrace Care Planning

Because of the increased demands on the health care system, the effective management of chronic conditions now requires a more proactive and coordinated approach by health care providers across a number of disciplines. Effective care planning can facilitate this approach, by enabling providers to work collaboratively

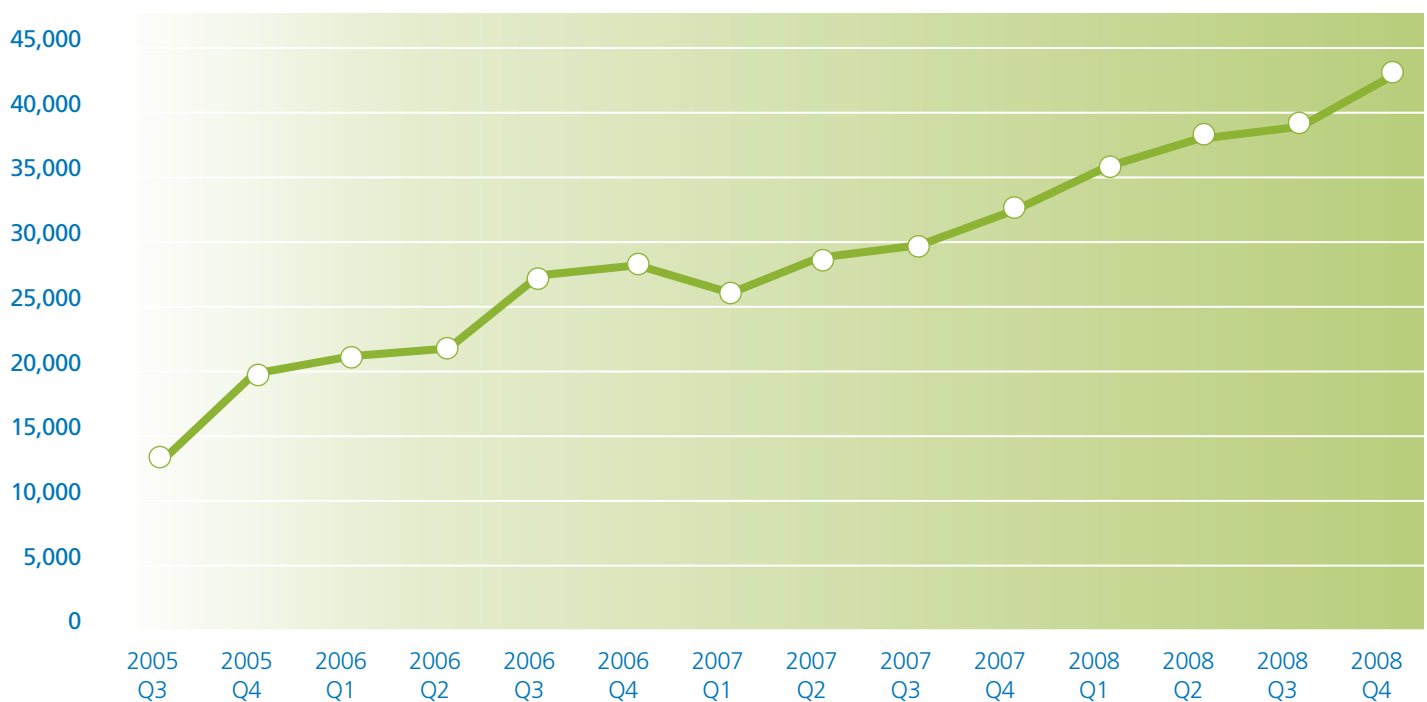
as a team and support patient participation in and self management of their chronic condition.

Care planning MBS Item claims within the primary care setting in South Australia continue to grow as healthcare providers have adopted the new Enhanced Primary

Care Items introduced in July 2005 to better manage the health care needs of patients with chronic conditions.

The graph below highlights the growth of Care Planning Items claimed in South Australia by primary care providers since 2005.

MBS Care Planning Items claimed in South Australia



1. Data provided by Mark Evans from Statewide Service Strategy at SA Health.
2. The Care Planning items include GP & Team Care Plans as well as GPs contributing to care plans created by other providers. MBS items 721, 723, 725, 727, 729 & 731.

With the need for care planning predicted to grow significantly, the e-Health Care Planning System is potentially a much needed solution to the complex issue of multidisciplinary care planning.

The web-based shared care planning prototype is now being demonstrated and if funding can be secured for Stage 2, the solution will be built and available to healthcare providers in South Australia.



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- > **AUSDRISK** – assesses the risk of developing type 2 diabetes over the next 5 years.
- > **Traffic Lights** (Traffic Light Foot Assessment Tool) – provides a basis for podiatrist and non-podiatrists to assess the diabetic foot.

Only providers listed on the SA HPRy will have access to these tools, so if you have not consented to join, contact GPSA on 8271 8988 or go to www.gpsa.org.au/hpry.

Secure Messaging has arrived!

HealthConnect SA in partnership with GPSA and the Divisions of General Practice in South Australia have now delivered over 1300 secure messaging software packages to general practitioners, specialists and allied health providers in South Australia. The success of this project has not only enabled private providers to transfer patient information quickly and securely, but also ensured they are prepared to participate in future e-health initiatives.



Feedback from participating Divisions of General Practice and healthcare providers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many providers now utilising secure messaging systems on a regular basis to facilitate fast and secure electronic transfer of patient information such as referral letters, treatment plans and reports.

"The HealthConnect SA secure messaging project enabled us to accelerate the uptake in the Adelaide, Eastern, and North Eastern regions. Most notably, the uptake by several large multi-site specialists and allied health has resulted in increased volume of messages and benefit to everyone able to communicate via this medium. This in turn has provided the momentum that has seen requests for installation support

continuing to come in from all types of health providers including GPs."

Colin Standing *GP Partners Adelaide*

The HealthConnect SA funding grant for secure electronic messaging has greatly increased the uptake rate and ensured that health providers receive sufficient training to effectively use the tools available to them. Future e-Health initiatives at both State and National level place a high importance on secure electronic messaging and with the assistance of HealthConnect SA and the Divisions Network, private health providers are now better positioned to take advantage of future developments.

Nathan Delbridge *GPSA*

SA Health is also investigating how secure electronic messaging can benefit clinical practice and Roger Milton, Director of ICT

Strategy and Standards said this includes looking at the compatibility of current systems used by general practitioners with future careconnect.sa systems.

"The benefits this could include for improving patient care would be the ability to electronically send GPs discharge summaries for patients, allowing GPs instant access to this information to provide a higher standard of care to their patients."

Secure electronic messaging is not only improving communication in the primary care sector right now, but in the future may provide a vital link with the acute care sector.

For more information about secure electronic messaging, your local Division of General Practice or HealthConnect SA.

Secure Electronic Messaging Packages delivered in South Australia

	General Practitioners	Allied Health Providers	Specialists	Pharmacists	Aged Care Facilities	Total
Adelaide Northern Division of GP	135	116	13	15	8	287
Adelaide Western GP Network	132	96	32			260
GP Partners Adelaide & Adelaide North East Division of GP	230	82	85			397
General Practice Network South	94	15	2	1		112
Adelaide Hills Division of GP	41	9	1	2		53
Eyre Peninsula Division of GP	23		2	2		27
Yorke Peninsula Division of GP	19					19
Barossa Division of GP	5				4	9
Riverland Division of GP	31	4				35
Mid North Division of GP	11					11
Limestone Coast Division of GP	33	39	13			85
Murray Mallee Division of GP	10	14	1			25

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e-Health Consumer Expo

Australia's first e-health consumer expo will be held in **Melbourne on May 7th 2009**, enabling health professionals from GPs to specialists, nurses, pharmacists and allied health workers to experience the revolution of technology in the management of chronic illness and the achievement of well being and good health.

The one-day event at Telstra Dome will feature four health and wellness precincts covering home technology, gaming and interactive media, personal health records and virtual communities.

Interested consumers can attend and have a 'hands on' experience and get up close and personal with experts in the field. Health professionals will experience a striking array of technology solutions that can support patients in their journey to a healthier life. The technologies span interests from chronic disease to general health and fitness.

The event is being staged by the Health informatics Society of Australia (HISA), in association with the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA).

For more information or to register go to www.healthbeyond.org.au

Create your own IT Security Manual!

HealthConnect SA continues to look at ways to assist healthcare providers to maintain their practice IT security. Feedback from many of you has indicated that ongoing IT resources would be useful in order to update your level of IT security knowledge and develop policies and procedures for use within your practice setting.

You can now access a **FREE Practice IT Security Manual** which can be tailored to the needs of your practice. Simply download the template and include your specific practice information to create your own IT Security Manual. Everything you need can now be kept in one place for easy staff access and best of all HealthConnect SA has done the hard work for you!

To access go to www.healthconnectsa.org.au. We hope this resource will be of value to you and welcome your feedback to improve or update it.

About us

HealthConnect is a joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative.

HealthConnect SA is guiding the implementation of secure connectivity and e-Health systems to enable health care teams to manage patients with chronic conditions collaboratively.

HealthConnect SA is funded by the Australian Government and is being delivered through SA Health.

The HealthConnect SA Team

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