



Media Release

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Pharmacy Departments Engaging with My Health Record

Another pharmacy peak health body has committed to supporting My Health Record by increasing engagement and awareness with hospital pharmacy departments across Australia.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) have partnered to deliver a flexible online and face-to-face national education and training package on My Health Record to hospital pharmacists.

The package will inform hospital pharmacists working in public and private healthcare services about the expansion of My Health Record in 2018 and how they should revise services and care to integrate the My Health Record given this significant growth in Australians' use of the digital health record.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels said empowering hospital pharmacists to maximise their uptake of My Health Record will also empower patients.

"Having mutually intelligible information at the fingertips can put pharmacists and patients on the same page, demystifying some of the incredibly complex medicine-related decision-making of contemporary hospital pharmacy practice.

"At the same time, an increased understanding of more patient profiles via the national expansion of My Health Record will allow hospital pharmacists to tailor their clinical services appropriately to reduce preventable readmissions to hospital," Ms Michaels said.

Leonie Abbott, from SHPA's Electronic Medicines Management (eMM) Leadership Committee and who participated in the Project Working Group that contributed to the *My Health Record Guidelines for Pharmacists* aimed at community pharmacy, said technology should be embraced when it can influence positive practice change.

"Sifting through growing volumes of medicines information while caring for some of the most unwell patients is a daily challenge in hospital pharmacy, especially in emergency settings and during crucial transitions of care from hospital to the community when medication errors are most likely to occur.

"Practitioners who work at the coalface will lead this education and engagement program giving it a running start in preparing hospital pharmacists to make the most of this important innovation, enabling them to be more efficient and effective pharmacists who can provide greater patient care," Ms Abbott said.

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) has also engaged with community pharmacy dispensing software developers not yet connected to the My Health Record system, including Z Dispense, Phillips & Phillips, Mountain Top and Corum.

These systems will be connected to My Health Record during 2018. They will join FRED Dispense, Simple Aquarius, Minfos, RxOne and Dispense Works in integrating with the system.

Agency CEO Tim Kelsey said the partnership with the SHPA is an important step toward integrating the My Health Record system into standard hospital pharmacist practice.

“Hospital pharmacy practice is markedly different to community pharmacy practice, and is particularly important in ensuring consistency in medicines management and effective transition of care from the hospital to the home.

“The expansion of My Health Record nationally to everyone unless they choose not to have one, will deliver a system that provides universal functionality, clear and concise content and, critically, a safe and secure clinical health service for all Australians,” Mr Kelsey said.

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About the Australian Digital Health Agency

The Agency is tasked with improving health outcomes for all Australians through the delivery of digital healthcare systems, and implementing *Australia's National Digital Health Strategy – Safe, Seamless, and Secure: evolving health and care to meet the needs of modern Australia* in collaboration with partners across the community. The Agency is the System Operator of [My Health Record](#), and provides leadership, coordination, and delivery of a collaborative and innovative approach to utilising technology to support and enhance a clinically safe and connected national health system. These improvements will give individuals more control of their health and their health information, and support healthcare providers to deliver informed healthcare through access to current clinical and treatment information. Further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au.

About the Society of Hospital Pharmacist of Australia

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.