

MEDIA RELEASE

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Our path to becoming 'Paper-lite':

Now that the Health Connect South (HCS) system is in place Nelson Marlborough Health is firmly on a 'Paper-lite' journey towards greater use of digital systems says Patrick Ng, General Manager Support Services.

He says paper-lite initiatives, such as the new electronic laboratory sign-off system, will dramatically change how our clinicians receive and interact with information – for the better.

“The HCS team did a great job of a complex project, setting us up to becoming paper-lite by 2020.”

Next on the paper-lite programme.

E-Radiology Sign-Off: Enhanced clinical safety will be a key benefit from this initiative, with the ability to comment on, reassign and access radiology results in a way that is not possible with the current paper-based sign-off process. Scoping work should be complete by June 2017.

HealthOne: Hospitals, GPs and pharmacies in the Nelson Marlborough district will join other South Island health providers on a shared patient records system. HealthOne will enable patient information from both primary and secondary care to be accessed as a single electronic record, meaning patients won't need to repeat themselves, or remember all their details. Implementation is underway.

Patientrack: This is a new digital patient observation and alert response system, aimed at helping clinicians identify deteriorating patients earlier. Patientrack uses a patient's vital signs to calculate an early warning score and automatically sends alerts to the appropriate clinicians. Implementation of Patientrack is due in late June.

Paper Chart Transformation: This is our own, unique approach to the paper chart problem. It is a multi-year initiative, commencing in July.

E-Referral Triage: Specialists will be able to triage and prioritise electronic referrals from a computer anywhere, anytime. The length of time between a GP's referral and a patient being booked for an appointment will be reduced, and GPs will receive immediate updates once the specialist completes the prioritisation.

Patient Administration: The South Island Patient Information Care System (SI PICS) will connect thousands of clerical and clinical staff to a single, regional, purpose-built patient administration system. It is planned to go-live in April 2018.

E-Medication Charts and E-Prescribing: Initial scoping for these initiatives will commence soon.

Ends

Contact details for follow up interviews:

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Paper_lite_initiatve

CAP: From left: Ange Lilley Project Manager, Bev Nicholls Clinical Director Information Systems, Patrick Ng General Manager Support Services and Kirsty Martin Chief Information Officer, illustrate the amount paper saved in just 7 weeks with the new electronic laboratory sign-off system.

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