

Lead Site for PCEHR System in Greater Western Sydney: eDischarge Summary

Frequently Asked Questions for healthcare providers

November 2011

Greater Western Sydney has been selected as one of the first areas in NSW to implement a component of the national eHealth.

The eDischarge Summary is one of several components of the Lead Site for Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records (PCEHR) in Greater Western Sydney.

What is an eDischarge?

A discharge is a summary of patient information relating to a healthcare event by a healthcare provider or organisation. The discharge process is conducted in a variety of healthcare settings, including acute, emergency and community settings. The discharge document is normally sent to the patient and the patient's general practitioner.

Currently in Greater Western Sydney, many healthcare providers have systems that produce electronic discharges. These electronic discharges are electronic for the facility producing it but when the discharge needs to be forwarded to patient or GP, the system becomes a manual system. The electronic discharge is generally printed out and then sent by fax or mail to the GP.

The eDischarge Summary in the Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney program will be 'plugging the gap' by electronically sending the eDischarge to a participating GP who will receive it in their electronic inbox.

What are the benefits to the healthcare facilities?

Currently there are different systems being used across the different facilities in Greater Western Sydney, including the hospitals and community health. The Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney will be implementing a single NETHA standard to ensure that we will be in line with the national standard when the national PCEHR is rolled out.

The benefit for the healthcare providers is they will be able to more easily and quickly share their eDischarge information with the patient's GP and other healthcare providers. In the future, once the national system is rolled out, that information will be available if the individual has a health event anywhere in Australia.

Will all provider facilities have to change the way they do eDischarge?

Not always.

Some facilities will see changes to their systems but step-by-step training guides have been developed for users.

How will GPs benefit?

GPs will benefit from receiving a message into their electronic inbox immediately after an eDischarge is sent. This will assist GPs to continue their care of patients by having quicker access to care information.

Will any information be lost by switching to the new eDischarge Summary in Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney?

No.

The eDischarge letter that is sent to GPs and healthcare providers captures all the data sitting in the facilities' systems. In addition, there is the capacity to add additional text as free text if the clinician wishes. When the GP receives the eDischarge message, they will see the data fields and the narrative text.

Can a GP change the data in the message they receive?

No. The GP can view and save the message but not alter the original eDischarge.

Are all GPs in all practices in Greater Western Sydney going to receive eDischarge messages?

No. There will be a gradual rollout to GPs in Greater Western Sydney from November 2011. We expect more than 450 GPs to be participating in the Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney by July 2012.

What happens to discharge information if a GP is not yet enrolled in the Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney to receive eDischarges?

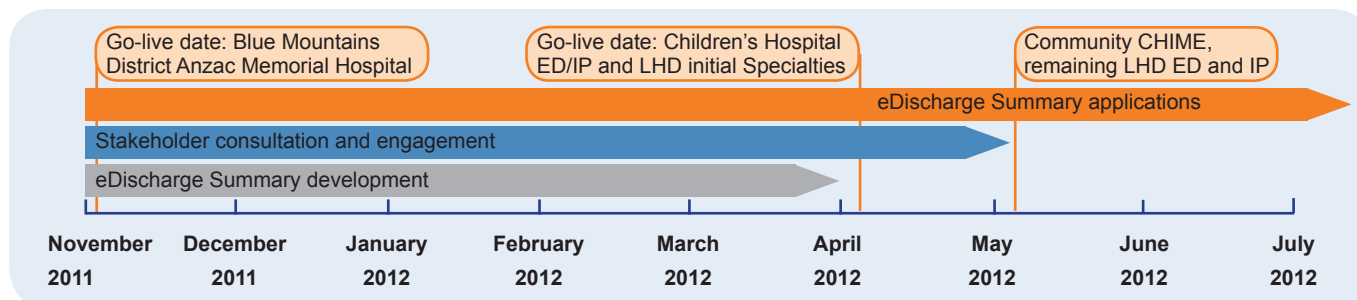
Generally, each healthcare facility will have its own existing procedures for distributing discharge summaries to GPs. Each facility should decide whether to fax or mail the discharge to a GP who is not currently enrolled for an agreed period.

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Timeframe



I've heard something about 'Release 0' – what does that mean?

Release 0 for the Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney refers to the first pilot site in the program. It covered the implementation of a generic eDischarge form in CERNER for use at Blue Mountains general ward with a pilot target group of 10 GP practices. This went into live operation in November 2011.

Does this have any crossover with the CHIME program for Community Health?

Yes. The Lead Site for PCEHR in Greater Western Sydney is working with Community Health in to ensure that the eDischarge is in tune with the planned CHIME upgrade for Greater Western Sydney.

Are there any consent implications?

The same rules as apply for all discharge summaries apply for the eDischarge.

Are healthcare providers being consulted?

We will be working with a wide range of specialities and emergency clinicians, management and IT representatives during the development stages. It is particularly important to ensure that we consult on how these changes impact work practices and patient safety.

In addition, we will be talking to hospitals about how eDischarge will be integrating with CERNER and working with Community Health on integrating with the CHIME program.

More information

For information on implementation of the eDischarge Summary or the Lead Site for PCEHR system in Greater Western Sydney, contact:

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The National eHealth Transition Authority has a comprehensive website with information on the implementation of the PCEHR system nationally – www.nehta.gov.au