

### **Electronic Prescribing and Administration in 70% of beds at Southern DHB's core hospitals**

The regional roll-out of a South Island Electronic Prescribing and Administration system is being led by Southern DHB across its three core hospitals.

South Island Alliance's Information Services Chair, Andrew Bowers, who is also Medical Director of IT at Southern DHB, says Electronic Prescribing and Administration is improving patient safety and the quality of healthcare at Dunedin Hospital by streamlining and standardising the medication process.

"The solution enables clinicians and nursing staff to administer and record medications electronically, resulting in less errors and duplication, and supporting greater accuracy around prescribing.

"A small but important advantage is the removal of the risk of handwriting being misinterpreted," he said.

Electronic Prescribing and Administration is being successfully used in 70 per cent of inpatient beds over 30 wards and across three physical sites within Southern DHB.

"It has been implemented at maternity ward in Dunedin Hospital and pre-implementation work is currently being undertaken in Southland Rehabilitation, Critical Care and Maternity Wards and configuration for safe use is underway for Paediatrics and Neonatal care," said Dr Bowers.

"This means improved quality of care is already being experienced by our smallest and most vulnerable patients through this innovative IT solution, one that will become regional for all South Island hospitals."

Electronic Prescribing and Administration, also known as MedChart, is one of a number of solutions within the South Island Alliance's eMedicines Programme being developed collaboratively by the five South Island DHBs that encompass the South Island Alliance.

It will also link in with the other eMedicines solutions, as well as a raft of new and innovative projects being developed by the South Island Alliance Information Services to transform the way healthcare is delivered across the South Island.

Canterbury DHB has had their Phase 2 eMedicines business case approved and has begun rolling out Electronic Prescribing and Administration to Specialist Mental Health Services on the Hillmorton Hospital site.

Planning is now underway to determine timelines for implementation of Electronic Prescribing and Administration in South Canterbury, West Coast and Nelson Marlborough DHBs.

# eMedicines Update

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As well as Electronic Prescribing and Administration, the eMedicines Programme initiatives also include Electronic Medicines Reconciliation and ePharmacy Management. ePharmacy and ePrescribing interface with the New Zealand Universal List of Medicines and the New Zealand Formulary .

These initiatives will not only integrate with each other, but also connect to wider regional programmes including eReferrals and Health Connect South.

## **ENDS**

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