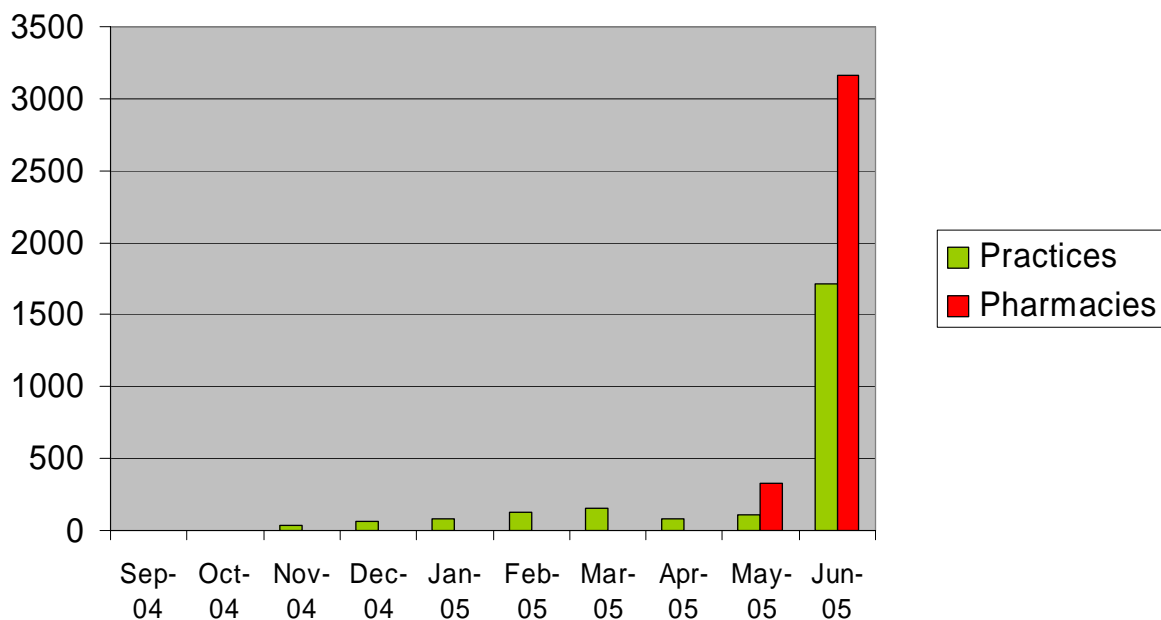


HealthConnect Implementation

What's new

- The HealthConnect Implementation Strategy – a new approach to the implementation of HealthConnect, the national system of electronic health records
- The Lessons Learned from the MediConnect Field Test and HealthConnect Trials – brings together the findings from the four years of HealthConnect trials and the MediConnect field test.

Broadband for Health Programme Take-up



Key features of the new strategy

- A partnership approach – governments working with health professionals, industry and consumers
- An overarching change management strategy focusing on people, not just technology
- Support for advanced models of care
- Driven by quality and safety improvements in the delivery of health services
- A focus on making things happen
- A goal of putting the right information with the right person at the right time
- The Broadband for Health programme is a key enabler for HealthConnect participation.

Background

Information technology is revolutionising the way the health care sector manages consumer health information. With increasing use of computer-based records, the potential for this technology to save lives and money far outweighs the initial costs.

HealthConnect will allow health care providers to securely transfer clinical information such as electronic referrals, hospital discharge summary reports, prescriptions, imaging and pathology requests and results.

HealthConnect will be secure, confidential and private. Each person will decide who can access his or her health records and which records may be held in the system.

Over time, HealthConnect will make vital information about people's medical histories available to them, and with their consent, to their doctors and other health care professionals no matter where they are.

About HealthConnect

Over the past four years, the Australian Government, in partnership with states and territories, has run trials of HealthConnect in several locations. These have shown that HealthConnect can work and that consumers and health care providers support the concept of shareable electronic health records.

The Australian Government has committed \$128 million over four years to introduce HealthConnect nationally. Projects are now underway in Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Where to from here for HealthConnect

The 'Lessons Learned' report and the HealthConnect Implementation Strategy together provide the road map to guide implementing HealthConnect and monitoring its progress. The revised strategy reflects the major challenge getting the many different existing health information systems to work together in the same way Australians expect general practitioners, specialists and nurses to work together when looking after a patient.

Under the umbrella of the HealthConnect Implementation Strategy, the Australian Government and state and territory governments are working in partnership with health care providers, consumers and industry to make sure all electronic health systems use the same set of national standards to securely store and manage health information. In this way, HealthConnect will help link electronic health projects in all states and territories so vital health information is available for improved diagnoses and health outcomes.

HealthConnect will build on existing projects and infrastructure to achieve short-term results (point-to-point electronic transfer of clinical information between health care providers) and drive longer-term outcomes (improved quality and safety of health care for consumers).

Australia is a world leader in electronic health systems. Major projects like HealthConnect are complex and can take several years to develop, but HealthConnect is on target to meet its long term objectives.

More information

Consultation with key stakeholders, research and evaluation information from the trials have been brought together in several major documents to guide the development and implementation of HealthConnect. These documents, which include the Lessons Learned from the MediConnect Field Test and HealthConnect Trials Report, the HealthConnect Implementation Strategy and the Legal Issues Report, together with earlier published HealthConnect documents such as the indicative benefits report and the benefits realisation framework, are available on the HealthConnect website at www.healthconnect.gov.au.

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