

DIGITAL HEALTH AND MORE | September

Welcome to the third edition of the Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) update for allied health practitioners. The AHPA update provides news and practical information about digital health and related topics. We encourage you to get in touch with questions, comments or feedback via comms@ahpa.com.au.

Latest News and Updates

Health Care Homes regions announced

The Australian Government recently announced ten regions across Australia will trial the new Health Care Homes initiative. General practices and aboriginal health centres in the regions will soon be able to apply to become Health Care Homes, with services to be delivered from July 1, 2017. The Health Care Home initiative is being overseen by a two tiered governance structure consisting of an Implementation Advisory Group and four working groups. Allied health representatives in the Advisory group and training working group will represent the interests of the allied health community.

Please visit www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-care-homes for more information about the Health Care Home initiative. We also encourage you to look at the first Health Care Homes newsletter.



My Health Record statistics

Ever wonder who uses My Health Record? How many people have records? What sort of information has been uploaded? The following list highlights some key statistics for My Health Record (as at September 4th, 2016).

- 4,125,216 Australian have My Health Records, representing almost a fifth of the population.
- A third of those are less than 20 years old, half are aged 20-64 and the remainder are over 65.
- Queensland has the highest rate of registration with 22% of residents having My Health Records.
- 9,030 healthcare providers have registered of which almost two thirds are general practices. Over ten percent are allied health healthcare providers.
- Some 290,000 GP shared health summaries and over 530,000 hospital discharge summaries have been uploaded and can be accessed by registered healthcare professionals.
- Almost 3.7 million prescription records and 1.2 million dispense records have been uploaded.

Don't forget to check out the latest edition of the My Health Record bulletin to see an example of how patients and practitioners, including allied health practitioners, can benefit from the system.

Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee announced

The Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, last week announced the establishment of a Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee that will provide advice and guidance on areas such as:

- developing easy-to-understand categories of health insurance
- developing standard definitions for medical procedures across all insurers for greater transparency and simplifying billing
- ensuring private health insurance meets the needs of Australians living in rural and remote Australia.

AHPA is pleased to announce that we have secured a presence on the Committee to represent the interests of the allied health sector. AHPA will be represented by Marcus Dripps, a Director at the Australian Physiotherapy Association and Clinical Advisor to the Transport Accident Commission and Worksafe.

National Health Services Directory Introduction

The Australian government's work on digital health initiatives such as My Health Record and secure messaging means the National Health Services Directory (NHSD) will have an increasingly important role in connecting health services and consumers. But what is it and why is it relevant for allied health practitioners?

What is the NHSD?

The National Health Services Directory (NHSD) is a free national directory of health services that provides reliable and consistent information about health and health-related services. The directory has been developed as a joint initiative of all Australian governments as part of Australia's digital health infrastructure. The directory contains over 150,000 service listings across 300 service types, such as: general practices, pharmacies, hospitals, specialists, community health services, and allied health providers. The NHSD is designed to help health professionals identify appropriate services to refer to and to help consumers find health services in their area. The directory can be accessed [via a dedicated website](#) and the [iOS and Android apps](#) as well as through a variety of government, PHN and peak body websites.

What information is held in the NHSD?

The NHSD is designed to provide detailed information about health services, with information appropriate to both consumers and healthcare professionals. In addition to standard information such as location and contact details, opening hours, payment options and appointment and accessibility options, the directory can also provide detailed information about specialised services and offerings such as:

- eligibility and referral criteria for programs and services
- availability of female/male practitioners
- languages spoken by practitioners
- after hours care information
- service delivery methods such as when online, phone, home visit or telehealth services are available.

The NHSD and digital health

The NHSD supports digital health initiatives such as [secure electronic messaging](#), patient referrals, and discharge summaries through the National Endpoint Proxy Service (NEPS). The directory consolidates information from the Healthcare Identifiers Service, Health Provider Directory, National Authentication Service for Health, and Endpoint Location Services. Health services registered with the NHSD and with secure messaging functionality can be easily identified by other health professionals allowing them to send electronic referrals directly. The goal of the service is to provide a national address book for digital health communications.

How can you register for the NHSD?

If you would like to register to have your organisation and service details included on the NHSD, please visit www.nhsd.com.au/register. Once you've entered and submitted your details, you will be contacted by the NHSD team to validate and complete your information. Once your details are entered, changes are normally made by emailing nhsd@healthdirect.org.au and providing details of the changes required. However you can also register your practice for self-authorship, allowing you to keep your practice details up to date, by emailing nhsd@healthdirect.org.au. AHPA is currently working with HealthDirect and AHPA's allied health association member organisations to help their members more easily register for the service.