

eHealth

Beyond the National Strategy



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National eHealth strategy

- Summary report released December 2008
- Endorsed by national health ministers conference
- Based on consultation with broad cross section of sector stakeholders



Australia's Health Care System

- One of Australia's largest and most complex sectors
- Delivers world class health outcomes
- Facing significant challenges
 - Chronic disease
 - Health inequalities
 - Ageing population
 - More costly and complex procedures
 - Health worker shortage



Health sector has underinvested in IT

- Heavily reliant on pen, paper and human memory



- Change is now inevitable

Australia faces an important choice

Do we coordinate this activity or not?

If allowed to continue unfettered, duplicate and disparate systems will eventually make the creation of an integrated Australian health system prohibitively difficult and costly to attain

What are we aiming for?

Safer, better coordinated, more equitable, sustainable health care for all Australians



Empowering consumers and care providers through improved access to information

What market model should we pursue?



Market driven projects and solutions

National legislation

Nationally developed infrastructure & standards

Central funding / investments

So what do we need to do?

Foundations

Establish the core foundations for electronic information exchange across the health sector

eHealth Solutions

Stimulate investment in high priority computer systems and tools

Change and Adoption

Encourage health sector participants to adopt and use high priority systems and tools

Governance

Ensure the effective coordination and oversight of the national eHealth work program

Foundations work stream

Why do we need to do this nationally?

- Can't afford to waste our scarce resources
- Need to avoid a 21st century 'rail gauge' issue

Recommended national action

- National identification and authentication regime
- Consistent national legislation for information protection
- National eHealth information standards
- National broadband services



eHealth Solutions work stream

Balancing market freedom with national coordination

- Market, not government, driven solutions
- Need to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'

Recommended national action

- Establish a national partnership / funding model
- Establish a national eHealth solutions compliance function
- Adopt an incremental and distributed approach to the development of national individual electronic health records



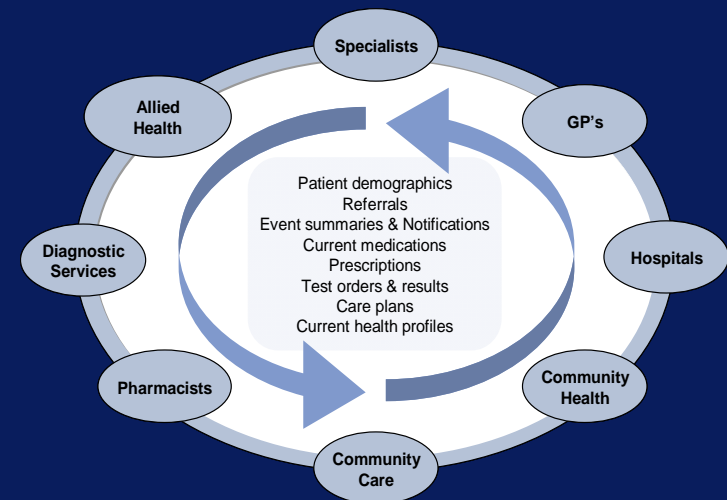
eHealth Solutions work stream

Priority Information Flows

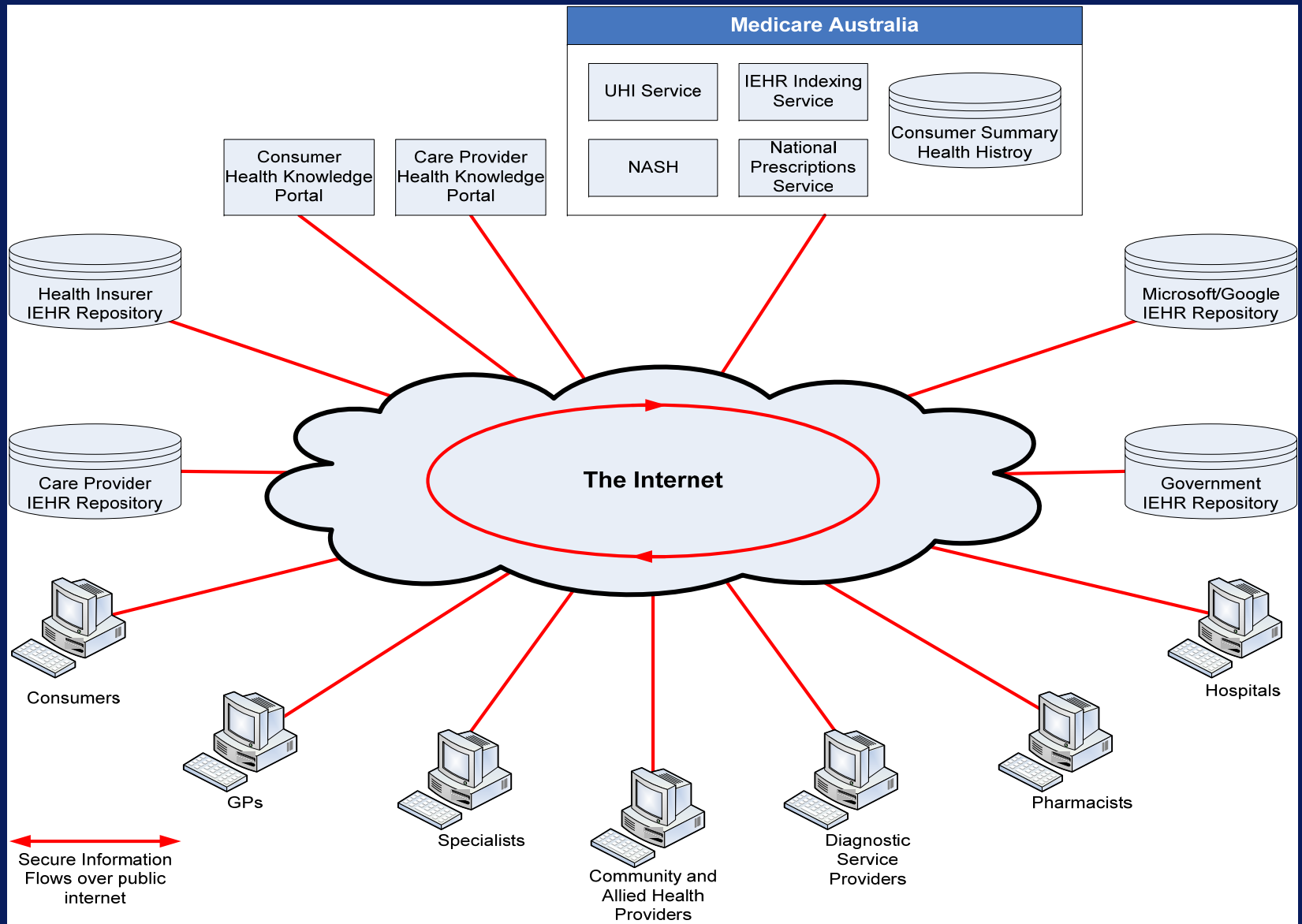
- Patient demographics, allergies, current medication lists
- Electronic referrals
- Event summaries and notifications
- Prescriptions, test orders and results
- Care plans

Priority Tools / Information Sources

- Decision support tools
- Telehealth
- Chronic disease management
- Consumer and care provider knowledge sources



Stakeholder connectivity will be key



Change and Adoption work stream

- ‘If you build it, they will not come’
- This is about reaching a ‘tipping point’, not achieving 100% involvement

Recommended action

- National awareness campaigns
- Stakeholder reference groups
- Care provider financial incentive programs
- Care provider accreditation
- Strengthen vocational and tertiary training programs



Governance work stream

- eHealth governance required at multiple levels
- A central entity is required to coordinate and direct national eHealth initiatives and activities
- A pragmatic option - leverage NEHTA

This will require changes to NEHTA's:

- Organisational structure and accountabilities
- Brand – as a minimum we have to remove the 'T'
- Governance regime to support greater representation



eHealth Implementation Roadmap

A journey of 10+ years is required to deliver a national eHealth environment



Current Status

- NEHTA
 - Funded for 3 years to deliver foundation projects
 - Taking a more pragmatic, results oriented approach to delivery
- Establishment of PIP incentive regime
- Greater cross border collaboration in key problem domains
- Commitment to rollout of a national broadband network
- Reform commission report which strongly emphasises the importance of eHealth
- Recent release of national primary care and preventative health strategies

Reform Commission Report (on 1 page)

115 - By 2012, every Australian should be able to have a personal EHR

116 - Privacy legislation

117 - Unique identifiers and authentication (July 2010)

118 - National social marketing strategy

119 - Access to a national broadband network

120 - Payments to be dependent on sending and receiving personal EHR data

121 - National policy and open technical standards framework for e-health

122 - Funds for e-health teaching, training, change management and support

123 - Endorse the National eHealth Strategy

- strengthen government leadership, governance and resources
- support to public health organisations and incentives to private providers
- coordinate national health portal and ePrescription solutions
- government should not design, buy or operate IT systems

Conclusion – the next 12 months are key

- Initial set of national eHealth foundations will be delivered, including legislation
- Government's response to reform commission report will be communicated
- Meaningful eHealth progress planned across all State/Territory jurisdictions and key parts of the private sector
- Beginning of productive on the ground collaboration in areas such referrals and discharge summaries
- A number of personal health record solutions will become available to Australian consumers
- Delivery of a national ePrescription capability

Conclusion – the need to work together

We are poised for significant progress but still could easily fragment the national agenda into 1000 moving parts



- Scalability, communication, alignment



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