

25 June 2015

Mr Paul Madden
Deputy Secretary and Chief Information and Knowledge Officer
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Madden,

RE: Trial site opportunity in one of the country's most diverse PHN regions

Brisbane South PHN (BSPHN) and Metro South Health (MSH) are eager to discuss opportunities relating to your recent comments at the Senate Estimates hearing on 2 June 2015 regarding sites for the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records (PCEHR) opt-out trials. Both organisations have been proactively involved in progression of the eHealth agenda and are committed to eHealth as a foundation piece to an improved integrated care that will better serve providers and patients within the region.

The Brisbane South/Metro South region is ideal as a trial site due to its diversity and size; it encompasses:

- over 1 million people, split across 4 Local Government Area's (Brisbane, Logan, Redlands and Scenic Rim). The Logan, Redlands and Scenic Rim areas contain approximately 250,000, 127,000 and 35,000 people respectively, and therefore provide options for a flexible combination of populations which will enable the Department to determine an appropriate size and scope of the trial.
- a wide range of age groups, socio economic profiles and rurality classifications.
- one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse PHN regions, with over a quarter of the population being born outside of Australia.
- diverse service profile with 6 public hospitals, 6 private hospitals, 12 community health services, over 300 General Practices, over 200 community pharmacies, approximately 1,500 allied health professionals and a large number of private specialists across multiple group practices.

MSH has committed in their *Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016* and *Integrated Care Strategy* to improving information and communication between acute and primary care, in partnership with BSPHN. The Integrated Electronic Medical Record (iEMR) project, of which the Princess Alexandra Hospital is the lead site and lead adopter of Queensland Health's State-wide discharge system, has resulted in the capacity for every discharge summary to be uploaded to a patient's PCEHR should the patient be registered. Additionally Metro South has leading telemedicine facilities and is continually growing mechanisms that improve the safety of healthcare, and provide avenues for better access and management.

BSPHN has a long history of involvement with eHealth projects, including the PCEHR change and adoption project, the Mater Shared Electronic Health Record (a wave of 2 trials for PCEHR) and more recently, the adoption and use of electronic referral technologies, including real-time referral acknowledgement. In the Primary Health Network tender, BSPHN emphasised the importance of eHealth as an enabler of better patient outcomes and provider efficiency, dedicating resources to support improved data management at a practice level. Building on Greater Metro South Brisbane Medicare Local (GMSBML) foundations, BSPHN is able to navigate barriers to clinician and patient participation and has strong relationships with Health Services within its region and, especially General Practice as evidenced by the significant levels of provider adoption and meaningful use of the PCEHR. This is formed on strong trust expressed by General Practice, Regional Aged Care Facilities, Non-Government Organisations and other providers reinforced during the PHN tender process for GMSBML to transition to a PHN.

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Office locations also at: Logan, Capalaba and Beaudesert

Medicare Locals gratefully acknowledge the financial and other support from the Australian Government Department of Health
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BSPHN and MSH believe that the Brisbane South/Metro South is a perfect area for the myHealth Record opt-out trials. This is due to our unique blend of health services, high levels of engagement, wide population mix and committed organisational capability. . Our proven record in working with the Department, especially with regards to eHealth, will provide the Department with a strong partner which is able to foster productive adoption and use of eHealth technologies.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding our interest in being a PCEHR opt-out trial site. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact Simon James on 0412 124 565.

Yours sincerely,



Simon James
CEO Brisbane South PHN



Richard Ashby
CE Metro South Health



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