

Frequently Asked Questions

Eastern Sydney Connect

General

What is the Eastern Sydney Connect?

St Vincent's and Mater Health Sydney (SV&MHS) have been funded by the Australian Government to be one of the ehealth sites.

SV&MHS will facilitate electronic communication between GPs, participating health professionals, and SV&MHS and coordinate the creation of shared health summary known as Eastern Sydney Connect. This will be done in two phases and in partnership with the Divisions of General Practice.

How long is the funding for?

The funding is for one year from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

What happens after the one year period?

From 1st July 2012 this will transition to a national PCEHR

Which facilities of SV&MHS will participate?

The facilities are St Vincent's (Public) Hospital Sydney, St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospice, and St Vincent's Clinic.

What are the two phases of Eastern Sydney Connect?

Phase 1 consists of

- E-referrals from GPs to all areas of the SV&MHS campus
- E-clinic letters from public outpatient specialists to GPs
- E-discharge summaries from St Vincent's Hospital to GPs
- E-attendance letters from Emergency
- E-clinic letters from private specialists to GPs
- E-discharge referrals (nurse led) from St Vincent's Private Hospital to GPs
- Accurate discharge medications from St Vincent's Hospital to GPs
- cdmNet care planning for interested GPs
- E-referrals to Prince of Wales Hospital (TBA)
- E-referrals and letters from other community-based providers

Phase 2 consists of

- Access to the PCEHR
- Creation and use of Shared Health Summaries
- Submission of event summaries

What kind of information will a shared health summary contain?

A shared health summary will be a clinical summary provided by a patient's GP and or SV&MHS and or other patient nominated, participating health professional. This may include information about medications a patient is taking, details of allergies, immunisations, and information on a patient's medical history they may have that would be useful to a wide range of healthcare professionals.

Benefits of an eHealth record for Healthcare Professionals (HCPs)

What are the benefits from Eastern Sydney Connect to GPs and health professionals

- Streamlined referral process – referral at the click of a button, no faxing, no printing and postage costs, automatic receipt acknowledgement against the patient record, no more chasing to see if the hospital has received the referral, no more lost referrals
- Your electronic referrals available more widely in St Vincent's campus – reduces the need for calls from the hospital seeking patient information that disrupts your clinic time
- Electronic clinic letters and discharge summaries: reduces the need for scanning paper based correspondence
- Admission and discharge notifications advising you when your patients are admitted and discharged from SVH and SVPH
- Timely electronic discharge summaries within 48 hours of discharge – improving the quality of your post discharge GP consultation and improving your care coordination
- Accurate discharge medication information due to new medication reconciliation processes commencing within St Vincent's Hospital reducing the time you spend trying to determine the medications
- Electronic clinic letters from public outpatients received by you faster – improving your care coordination
- Electronic emergency attendance letters – improving your care coordination
- More timely and more frequent correspondence from the hospital reducing your need to chase up the hospital looking for information
- In Phase 2 beginning in Feb 2012, reduced repeat pathology testing as you will be able to view hospital pathology and, with your consent, the hospital will be able to view the pathology you have agreed to share in the patient's electronic health record

- In Phase 2, greater sharing of clinical information across the care teams, in line with consumer consent e.g. allied health, optometrists, diabetes educators etc. – improving care coordination
- In Phase 2 – better medication reconciliation for patients admitted to St Vincent's Hospital – as the medications you have prescribed prior to admission are taken into account on discharge and re-included, where appropriate on the discharge medication list

Participation in Eastern Sydney Connect

How do I participate in Eastern Sydney Connect?

If you are a GP or a health care provider practicing in the Divisional boundary of South Eastern Sydney Division, please log on to www.sesdgp.com.au navigate to programs, click on IMIT and scroll down to “ How can I register to be a part of this initiative” and follow the link. Alternatively you may contact the Division on (02) 9663 5958

Becoming PCEHR Ready

Will I be ready for the national PCEHR by participating in Eastern Sydney Connect?

Once you register for Eastern Sydney Connect, and upon your consent Division staff will, liaise with Medicare on your behalf and set you up with the Healthcare Provider Identifier. This along with your compatible software will get you ready for the national PCEHR