

MEDIA RELEASE

4 September 2019

SafeScript wins national Australian Information Industry Association award

The life-saving role of clinical tools in reducing risk for vulnerable Australians was acknowledged last week with Victoria's SafeScript real-time prescription monitoring winning a national award for innovation and excellence.

The Fred IT Group congratulates the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services for winning the Australian Information Industry Association iAward in the category of Infrastructure & Platforms Innovation of the Year for SafeScript.

SafeScript tackles the growing problem of accidental misuse of prescription medications by providing clinicians with alerts of clinical risk based on medications interactions. These alerts are based on the real-time monitoring of prescription data captured via the electronic transfer of prescriptions through eRx Script Exchange and MediSecure.

Fred worked with the Department to develop SafeScript and roll it out across Victoria. The first clinicians started using SafeScript during patient consultations in October 2018. Since then, clinicians have received clinical risk alerts relating to more than 57,000 Victorians.

According to Paul Naismith, pharmacist and CEO of Fred, "As pharmacists, we continue to see the devastating toll that occurs in the community as a result of the misuse of prescription medications. Tragically, with last week's release of the Australian Overdose Report*, we know that the number of deaths occurring through accidental overdose continues to grow."

"We applaud the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services for taking leadership on this vital issue. We can already see the evidence in terms of how many people SafeScript is helping – 57,000 Victorians in nine months in Victoria alone. It is gratifying to see SafeScript being recognised for its role in reducing clinical risk for vulnerable Victorians and, now through the national data exchange, available to all Australians."

"We urge other states and territories to follow Victoria's lead and act to provide clinicians with access to life-saving real-time prescription monitoring as soon as possible so that we can help to prevent unnecessary deaths occurring across State and Territory borders."

Penington Institute released its national report, the Australian Overdose Report, on 26 August. The report found that the rate of accidental overdose has continued to grow, with 1612 deaths were reported as a result of accidental overdose in 2017. <http://www.penington.org.au/australias-annual-overdose-report-2019/>.

According to Fred's joint venture partner, Telstra Health, Managing Director, Mary Foley, "SafeScript is one of Fred's and Telstra Health's great successes, partnering with governments, clinicians and pharmacists to reduce the incidence of opioid and other controlled substance abuse, preventing avoidable deaths."

SafeScript provides real-time monitoring of Schedule 8 medications and other high-risk medications, such as morphine and oxycodone, which carry the highest risk of misuse, and other high-risk medicines, including all benzodiazepines such as diazepam.

<https://www.aiia.com.au/iawards/about>

<https://www.safescript.vic.gov.au/>

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About Fred IT Group

Fred IT Group is Australia's largest provider of Pharmacy IT solutions servicing more than 3000 pharmacies. The company was launched out of a deep commitment to the role of technological leadership in improving patient outcomes whilst making it easier and more efficient for health professionals to run their business. Fred's technological leadership has seen it invest in and launch a number of groundbreaking systems for health professionals, including Fred NXT, Australia's first cloud based management platform developed specifically for pharmacy, eRx Script Exchange, Australia's first and largest national electronic prescriptions exchange, and MedView, a consolidated medications picture available via the desktop.