

NT COMPLETES NATIONAL NETWORK OF ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS

Electronic prescriptions are now transacting across Australia, with the Northern Territory's successful dispense of its first paperless electronic prescription on 1 September.

eRx Script Exchange has now successfully enabled electronic prescriptions to be transacted in all Australian states and territories as part of the national network for electronic prescribing and dispensing.

Alice Springs Pharmacy dispensed the Northern Territory's first electronic prescription. Pharmacy Manager Anandh Vijayan said, "We are extremely proud to have dispensed the Northern Territory's first electronic prescription. This will make it easier for patients to access their medication. Alice Springs has a large number of tourists and visitors from other parts of the country who will now be able to access medications from their GP while they are visiting. It will also save our pharmacy considerable time that we would otherwise spend dealing with fax copies and having to chase up originals."

According to Rupert Lee, Acting Chief Operating Officer at the Australian Digital Health Agency, "Given the remote locations of many patients, prescribers, pharmacies and communities throughout the Northern Territory, the Agency believes that electronic prescriptions will bring significant benefits to many people. With the final jurisdiction now live, we are pleased to see that electronic prescriptions are now being utilised in every state and territory across Australia. Congratulations to everyone involved in this important initiative."

Pharmacist and CEO of Fred IT Group, Paul Naismith, emphasised the foundational role of electronic prescriptions in a modern healthcare network, saying, "This is a significant leap forward for healthcare in Australia. The achievement of national electronic prescriptions is vital to modern healthcare delivery based on flexibility for patients and state-of-the-art systems for healthcare professionals."

"Behind the scenes, this has occurred as a result of enormous industry collaboration across the states and territories. I am extremely proud of the leadership role that Fred and eRx Script Exchange have taken in making this happen, and of the terrific efforts of GPs, pharmacies, and medical and pharmacy software vendors working together to make this available across Australia."

This week's successful electronic prescription occurred using Best Practice medical software prescribing system, prescription exchange service eRx Script Exchange, and Fred Dispense with MedView Flow. It used the "token" model, which involves the doctor sending the electronic prescription "token" to the patient by SMS or email. The patient then forwards or presents the code to their chosen pharmacy for dispensing.

With the national network for "tokens" in place across Australia, preparations continue for the launch of the Active Script List this year. The token model and Active Script List will operate side-by-side to provide patients with flexibility in how they digitally access their medications. The Active Script List will further improve the patient experience by giving patients a way to manage their scripts in one location, making it easier for them to share scripts with their doctors and pharmacists, and making it faster and more efficient to get scripts dispensed. Pharmacies and GPs should contact their vendors about turning on the token model in their sites.

Media queries: David Freemantle, General Manager, eHealth, Fred IT Group **M** 0417 398 726

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, the national cloud based platform that hosts a range of eHealth applications to enable better medications management for patients and their health professionals.

About eRx Script Exchange

eRx Script Exchange is Australia's first and largest national electronic prescriptions exchange (PES), connecting more than 25,000 prescribers and 5,100 pharmacies. eRx helps to improve health outcomes through providing a safer and more efficient dispensing process.

MedView is powered by eRx, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fred IT Group, Australia's largest provider of IT solutions to pharmacy. Fred's leadership and commitment to medication management during its 27 years has seen them invest in and launch a number of innovations for health professionals including the National Prescription and Dispense Repository (NPDR), SafeScript – Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system and the National Data Exchange (NDE).