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Inpatient Snapshot creates more efficiency for clinicians

Doctors at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals will be able to spend more time with patients thanks to a new initiative making it faster to access a patient's health history.

The Inpatient Snapshot compiles a significant portion of a patient's electronic health data onto one easy-to-use screen, giving clinicians a clear and up-to-date view of a person's medical history from time spent in hospitals or from information gained through GP referrals.

It's fast making its mark on New Zealand's health sector, currently used more than 3000 times-a-day by Waitemata DHB staff. The system is expected to save more than 20,000 hours of clinician time per year.

Waitemata DHB pharmacist and IS Clinical Change manager David Ryan says as processes became electronic, clinicians started asking for a summary of patient data in real-time, but the underlying systems were not fast enough.

Previously, moving between multiple software programs to compile vital clinical data would slow down the process of information gathering, which meant wasted time during ward rounds and outpatient clinics.

The Inpatient Snapshot was launched at Waitemata DHB in December 2017. The system displayed information from the eVitals and ePrescribing systems, which showed data around a patient's vital signs and the medications prescribed and administered while in hospital.

Mr Ryan then extended the system's capabilities to include information on a patient's allergies, referrals, radiology exams, lab results, other relevant documents and community dispensing results.

All of these projects have been initiated as part of the CEO sponsored Leapfrog – a programme that fast-tracks technological advances that will make a big impact in a short period of time.

Counties Manukau DHB has adopted the system and other DHBs around the country are interested.

"Inpatient Snapshot allows us to access relevant clinical information in seconds so we can safely review and treat patients efficiently and effectively," he says.

"We have worked hard to reduce our paper records over the past five years and now have a significant proportion of our clinical information stored electronically. The Inpatient Snapshot allows clinicians to view this quickly by reducing time spent clicking between multiple systems."

Waitemata DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley says initiatives like the Inpatient Snapshot are vital to ensuring the people of Waitemata receive the best care possible.

"Waitemata DHB has a strong focus on innovation because in order to provide the level of care needed for the future, our clinicians need the resources to help them keep up with demand," he says.

“The Inpatient Snapshot, along with eVitals and ePrescribing, is a perfect example of what can be achieved when we combine expertise and technology.”

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For further information contact

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