



Key Message Guide – Connected Health

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Source of further information: www.thehealthboard.health.nz/connectedhealth

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Purpose of this document: Provide consistent key messages about Connected Health and certified products.

Key messages

Background messages

- The security of personal health information is paramount. Confidential patient information should be transferred over a secure network.
- Connected Health is a National Health Board initiative to establish an environment for the safe sharing of health information.
- The Connected Health approach has been to develop agreed specifications that different networking products are certified against to ensure that the different networks of telecommunication providers can interconnect.
- The initiative fits into Workstream 8 'Safe Sharing Foundations' under Phase 1 'Consolidate, Cooperate & Foundation' of the National Health IT Plan.
- The Connected Health Network has been developed to meet the requirements of future sector initiatives, including National Health IT Plan initiatives such as eReferrals and eDischarges. It will therefore be the network of choice for all sector initiatives that transfer health information, and a requirement for all new initiatives that require approval from the National Health IT Board.
- The Connected Health specifications that the networking products have been certified against have also been approved by the Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO), therefore these specifications are also HISO-approved standards.

User (healthcare provider)-specific messages

- (Existing user of a certified product) Your existing network product is now Connected Health certified.
 - This means that if you are a user of the old Health Network, you will automatically be transferred to the new Connected Health Network when the networks are integrated.
- (Existing user of legacy product that cannot be certified) As a user of one of our legacy network products, you will be transferred to our Connected Health certified product, with little/no effort from you/at no extra cost (as appropriate).
 - Once you are on a certified network product, this means that if you were a user of the old Health Network, you will automatically be transferred to the new Connected Health Network when the networks are integrated.

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- The target timeframe for the integration of the current networks into the Connected Health Network is December 2010.
- When the networks are integrated, network users should not experience anything different, except:
 - Users may find that previous network issues with transferring information to users on a different telecommunications network are resolved
 - Availability of the network compared with the old Health Network is significantly improved.
- (New users) Procurement of a Connected Health certified product is favourable over procurement of a non-certified product due to the fact that certified products are HISO-approved; offer interconnection with the secure and reliable Connected Health Network – the 'network of choice' for all future initiatives that transfer health information.