

Press Release

29 January 2018

New computer platform improves health information flow – a regional first

Wairarapa District Health Board hit the “Go-Live” button on a new electronic patient management platform on Saturday and is delighted with the successful early integration of the system.

Sir Paul Collins, Chair of Wairarapa DHB sent a message to staff in the weekend acknowledging the significance of the implementation, calling it a “real milestone.”

Replacing its outdated, recently unsupported patient management system was a key priority for several years for the Wairarapa District Health Board. WebPAS has been a project buzzword since 2013, when the Board made the decision to invest in ICT infrastructure and develop the electronic platform. Design, development and testing has been a 14 month marathon, culminating in this weekend’s implementation.

As part of a regional initiative involving Hawkes Bay, Whanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Hutt Valley, and Capital and Coast DHBs; WebPAS will allow a secure, confidential flow of information throughout the lower North Island to support patient health records across primary and secondary care. MidCentral was first cab off the rank, with Wairarapa following last weekend. Next will be Whanganui DHB in two weeks’ time.

Wairarapa DHB Chief Medical Officer, Tom Gibson is thrilled with the roll out. “It has been a huge weekend for all involved,” he said. “No major issues have been reported. Our Emergency Department was busy and the system and the staff coped extremely well.”

“This has been a long-awaited, much needed investment which will immediately benefit our health environment. Patient safety is at the fore of the improvements, and sharing important information between health providers is critical for the provision of best practice care,” Dr Gibson explained.

WebPAS Coordinator, Odette Cantwell, said the WebPAS team were working around the clock since Thursday. “Integrating WebPAS required manual processes to be carried out, starting in the Emergency Department at midday on Friday and throughout the rest of the hospital that evening,” she explained.

“Data migration from the old system, Galen, to the new WebPAS system was successful and WebPAS went live at 6:50pm Saturday 27 January. It’s the best possible result and concludes a long, complex project. It’s great news for Wairarapa,” she said.

For more information:

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