

GP2GP helps deliver continuity of care, as newly registered patients will find that GP practices increasingly have details of their medical histories in time for their first consultation.



Old Lloyd George Notes



GP2GP roll-out gains momentum

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Dr Paul Cundy, Joint Chairman of the Joint GP IT Committee of the GPC and Royal College of GPs

Increasing numbers of GPs, practice teams and their patients are using GP2GP, the software application that enables patients' electronic health records to be transferred from one practice to another.

More than 2000 practices are now using GP2GP and that figure is increasing all the time. The national roll-out of GP2GP currently encompasses practices using the clinical systems EMIS LV 5.2 and INPS Vision 3 and further suppliers and software products will be joining at a later date.

“The benefits of a fully implemented and embedded GP2GP solution will be felt at every level from saved shelf space and released staff time, all the way through to data quality enhancement,” says Dr Paul Cundy, Joint Chairman of the Joint GP IT Committee of the GPC and Royal College of GPs.

Dr. James Fleming from Padiham Group Practice welcomes the continuity of care that GP2GP brings – a fact brought home when he saw a new patient. “All the history was there, it went back years. It was great - like having one of our regular patients.”

The latest version of GP2GP enables electronic health records to be transferred between different clinical systems. Hilary Ellis, Practice Manager at St James's Medical Practice in Croydon, says: “We use INPS Vision here and have had records from practices with EMIS LV. They do look a little different, and a few things appear in different places, but I just flag this up on the patient's record.

“The information's all there for you now. You still need to check it but overall the processing is a lot quicker. It's a big benefit for a practice like this which has a high patient turnover.”

NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CFH) is working closely with the PCTs, SHAs and the clinical system suppliers on the

roll-out of GP2GP. User training is being provided by the clinical system suppliers and, in some areas, by PCT trainers.

One of the biggest successes of the GP2GP project so far has been the involvement of clinicians. There are three GPs on the project board, and clinicians have played a key role in all aspects of the project including strategy, development, testing and clinical assurance.

Dr Cundy – a GP2GP project board member himself - says: “The success of this project is a demonstration of what can be achieved when NHS Connecting for Health, GPs and suppliers have a common agenda and desire to progress. The project has been built around positive clinical engagement and the benefits this has enabled are clear for all to see.”



Practice staff will have to spend less time summarising from paper records as a result of GP2GP.

■ *More information on GP2GP can be accessed at:*
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport

BMA publish guidance on Choose and Book

The British Medical Association has recently published guidance on Choose and Book, as part of a series of guidance documents on the National Programme for IT.

The BMA guidance provides a general overview on Choose and Book and sets the record straight on some of the myths that have been circulating, such as Choose and Book's inability to refer to named clinicians, slot availability and compulsory use of Choose and Book.

The guidance also covers clinical engagement and Choose and Book's Request For Assessment (RFA) process, which provides clinicians with the opportunity to suggest improvements to Choose and Book.

There is also a comprehensive section on helpful links to additional guidance documents, training materials and troubleshooting.

■ *The BMA guidance is available from:*
www.bma.org.uk/lap.nsf/Content/chooseandbookguide