



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 4 May 2016

10-YEAR STRATEGY FOR eHEALTH IN NSW

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has launched a 10-year eHealth strategy to deliver smart, safe, sustainable and digitally-enabled care to patients.

“By harnessing technology, the NSW Government has made NSW Health the most advanced eHealth system in Australia,” Mrs Skinner said after launching the *eHealth Strategy for NSW Health 2016-2026* at the *CeBIT Australia* conference in Sydney.

“We allocated over \$400 million in our first term of Government to support advances in technology in our hospitals and health facilities to deliver safer, higher quality, more efficient and better coordinated care for patients. This strategy will build on those positive, patient-centred changes.”

eHealth initiatives in NSW include:

- **Electronic Medical Records (EMRs):** Integrates patients’ diagnostic, medication and medical history into a single electronic record, which can then be shared across public hospital or health facilities as well as community and outpatient healthcare settings. EMRs enhance processes of care and help reduce clinical risks and errors. The EMR systems now cover approximately 80 per cent of the NSW hospital bed base.
- **Electronic Medication Management System (eMeds):** Continues to be rolled out at NSW hospitals - most recently, the Children’s Hospital at Westmead - enabling fast, accurate prescribing and dispensing of medications and allowing potentially dangerous medication errors to be detected.
- **HealthNet:** Improves communication between hospitals, community and private healthcare settings by sharing patient information electronically and securely through the HealthNet Clinical Portal.
- **Telehealth:** A huge step forward in addressing challenges of distance for rural and remote communities. It complements face-to-face consultation, reduces travel time and improves access to specialists and advice. The use of mobile devices helps community nurses and remote families connect to expert care.
- **Clinical Analytics:** Blends advanced analytics with the huge volume of information that flows through healthcare organisations, converting it into useable, data-driven intelligence for improved safety, quality and outcomes.

Implementation of the *eHealth Strategy for NSW Health 2016-2026* will be supported by the eHealth NSW agency.

The strategy can be viewed at

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/priorities/pages/default.aspx>