Information on Wedgetail, the Individual Electronic Health Record service, for Health Professionals

Consent to participate

Personal consent for information to be sent and viewed in Wedgetail is ongoing. At the time of agreeing to participate in Wedgetail, patients consent to an initial health summary being sent to their Individual Electronic Health Record by their nominated health care provider who is registered with Wedgetail. The health summary may be updated periodically.

Patients decide which health care providers can access Wedgetail. Guest cards may be created by patients to allow health care providers a one-time access to their Individual Electronic Health Record. The patient may withdraw consent at any time or decide that information about a particular episode of care will not be included in Wedgetail.

Transmission of information

Wedgetail uses HeSA's PKI and SSL encryption for the secure transfer of health information to ensure the highest standards in safety and privacy. Health data is sent to and retrieved from Wedgetail using International Standard HL7 messaging.

Health professionals' access

Health professionals can apply for access to Wedgetail by contacting the Wedgetail Project Officer via email at: wedgetail_admin@nrgpn.org.au. Once approved, a user name and password is nominated by the applicant and Wedgetail can be accessed through a web page on the internet.

Health information

The health information in Wedgetail is flexible and may include all or some of the following: health summaries; medications; allergies; public hospital discharge summaries; public hospital encounters; primary care consultation summaries; letters; radiology and pathology reports;

patient notes; care plans; team care arrangements and relevant templates.

The message facility allows providers to send messages to other members of the health care team involved in caring for the individual. Health care providers may register an interest in receiving messages concerning an individual, thus having instant access to the most current information. Messages may also be sent directly to patients.

Continuum of Care

Wedgetail is designed to provide health professionals with immediate access to health information across the continuum of care. Health care providers who may access information in Wedgetail include GPs, specialists, pharmacists, hospital staff, community health staff and allied health professionals.

Cost

There are no initial or ongoing costs to either the individual or the health professional to participate in Wedgetail. There may, however, be infrastructure costs for computers and internet services if these are not already in the clinical environment.

Automation

The technical design of Wedgetail has been underscored by the desire for a user-friendly interface for ease of use by health professionals. Information from a primary source may be uploaded into Wedgetail with the click of a mouse. Clinical data may be directly entered into a patient's Shared Electronic Health Record at time of consultation, or may be uploaded at the end of a clinical consultation or verification of a medical report. Individual health summaries may be updated as regularly as the health care provider deems relevant. The scratchpad facility may be used for notes and social or familial information.

Wedgetail saves time, enables immediate access to important medical information at the point of care, and assists in the integration and coordination of care.

Adapted from eHealthNT's: 'Shared Electronic Health Record – Information for Health Professionals'.