



eMR:

Electronic Medical Record

NSW HEALTH

Frequently Asked Questions on the State Base Build

What is the State Base Build (SBB)?

The implementation of the Electronic Medical Record (eMR) throughout NSW is underpinned by the adoption of a State Base Build (SBB). The SBB provides the core common application to be implemented in the eight Area Health Services (AHS) and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Areas will build on the common foundation in order to establish an eMR, which meets local needs.

The SBB will ensure that the core components of the eMR, such as standard clinical terminology, content and system design are consistent across all Area Health Services. This will assist in increasing patient safety and reducing training requirements when clinicians move between hospitals or other Area Health Services.

Why is NSW Health undertaking a State Base Build?

The main reasons for NSW Health developing the eMR State Base Build is to ensure that standard information system content, coding and design is provided to each AHS and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This facilitates faster implementation of the eMR, ensures standard consistent systems and content that is based on better practice whilst allowing flexibility to tailor the eMR application to suit local business needs and processes. Achieving an adequate level of standardisation in terms of how various medical and clinical concepts are described and understood throughout the state's health system will be important for reducing the education and training impact of a mobile workforce, ensuring effective reporting and providing ongoing support and maintenance.

What is the process?

For each of the eMR's modules, the SBB team seeks representation from the AHS' and the Children's Hospital at Westmead to attend and make decisions on the design and build. A number of workshops are conducted addressing specific components of the SBB, the integration of the information system into clinical practice and the information requirements for clerical staff, nurses and doctors. This process is conducted for each clinical speciality area such as the Emergency Department or Operating Theatre. Representation at the workshops is sought from the AHS' and hospitals. The SBB team also works closely with the Clinical Services Redesign Program (CSRP) to ensure the SBB supports the various models of care being implemented by the CSRP.

Once the SBB design is completed, it is demonstrated to the working group and user acceptance testing is completed. Documentation of the SBB is completed both during and at the completion of the sessions. The SBB is then submitted to the NSW Clinical Advisory Group for sign-off. It also handed over to Cerner Corporation to build and for Cerner and HealthTechnology to implement within the project.

Who is involved in the SBB process?

All eight Area Health Services and the Children's Hospital at Westmead were formally asked by NSW Health to nominate a representation of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and clerical staff to take part in each of the SBB workshops.

How will the SBB affect clinicians?

The State Base Build provides the standard design, clinical terminology and content for the eMR system, with the initial phase of eMR being implemented over the next three years in all AHS' and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This delivers an eMR system that has been designed and endorsed by NSW Health clinicians.

For more information:

<http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/sim/emr>



What are the benefits of the SBB to clinicians?

The SBB will ensure that the eMR system is integrated and standardised throughout New South Wales. This will allow health professionals to access and use the system at different hospitals, with little or no difficulty. Through providing a integrated and standardised system across the state there is less burden on the ongoing education and training requirements as clinicians move between Area Health Services.

What is the timeframe of this phase of SBB?

The SBB process for designing the eMR's Emergency Department System module has been completed with the build expected to be completed by early February 2007. The Operating Theatre System, Electronic Discharge Referral System and Enterprise Scheduling modules will be completed by the end of May 2007, end of June 2007 and end June 2007 respectively.

The SBB process for Electronic Orders and Electronic Results was completed in June 2006.

Does the eMR convey the full patient picture?

The functional stack provides the foundation modules for the eMR. Over the three-year implementation period, from 2006 to 2009, funding has been provided to establish six key modules of the eMR. These are:

- **Emergency Department System** – Captures information specific to the emergency departments to allow the efficient management of patients and the department. It includes documenting triage information, presenting problems, initial clinical assessments, interventions (pathology, medical imaging and consult orders), provision of clinical results and a electronic discharge summary. By documenting clinical information, important performance indicators and clinical management reporting is generated automatically as a by-product.
- **Operating Theatre System** – A system to manage the coordination of patients, surgeons, anaesthetists, equipment and rooms, and reports on theatre utilisation. Documentation of the record of operation is available electronically as part of the patient record. Information such as surgeon case preference cards is also available to support delivery of effective surgical services.
- **Electronic Orders** – Enables health professionals to order tests, procedures and services online. This includes laboratories, imaging, allied health, diets and referrals to specialist doctors and nurses.
- **Electronic Results** – Will allow test results and reports from diagnostic (laboratory and medical imaging) services to be viewed at the clinical workstation.
- **Enterprise Scheduling** – The ability to coordinate scheduling of hospital services such as outpatient clinics and other services in order to provide a 'single view' of appointments and resource requirements as well as improve the efficiency of the coordination of care. Appointment information can be viewed from both a patient and clinician perspective.
- **Electronic Discharge Referral System** – Provides a summary of the patient's care, which can be transmitted electronically to other providers such as General Practitioners, as a means of supporting ongoing care in the community.

This current three years phase does not include the implementation of complete electronic clinical notes and electronic medication management.



Is there a channel of communication open for clinicians and clerical staff to raise issues or provide feedback?

All Area staff are able to raise any concerns or provide feedback to their AHS representatives nominated to participate in the SBB workshops. AHS representatives are encouraged to convey the messages of their colleagues during the workshops.

The Clinical Advisory Group contains clinical representation from all AHS' and the Children's Hospital at Westmead and is another means of feedback to NSW Health regarding the SBB process for the eMR. In addition, NSW Health's SBB team can be contacted via the Department's intranet site at <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/sim/emr>

Who from my AHS is involved in the SBB workshops?

A complete list of AHS representatives attending the SBB workshops can be found on the eMR website at <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/sim/emr>

The NSW Health's eMR website also contains fact sheets regarding the eMR and can be accessed at: <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/sim/>