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Health IT industry in New Zealand

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Overview

New Zealand is building an international reputation for the quality of its health informatics offerings. This is the result of a culture of innovative product development, a small population suited to piloting and refining health IT systems and a high uptake of electronic medical records in the New Zealand health sector.

Areas where New Zealand providers are attracting major international attention and investment include:

- Regional electronic health records (EHR) solutions and implementation.
- Clinical management systems for hospitals.
- Practice and clinical management systems for GPs.

Fast facts

- Practice management software is currently estimated to be used in 95 percent of New Zealand general practices.
- Coordinated care: 82 percent of New Zealand physicians report receiving information back for almost all patient referrals to other doctors and/or specialists. This compares to 75 percent in the United Kingdom and 37 percent in the United States.
- New Zealand has had a fully specified National Health Index (NHI) system for patients since 1992 and more recently launched a Health Practitioner Index.
- In New Zealand, 90 percent of primary care physicians and 100 percent of laboratories communicate via secure health data networks every day.
- New Zealand's health spend per capita ranks as one of the most cost efficient for an OECD country – at NZ\$2,083, it is close to one third the United States health spend per capita.
- The eHealth marketplace – encompassing remote patient monitoring, electronic medical records, evidence based medicine, health knowledge management and consumer health informatics – is estimated to reach US\$8 billion by 2012.



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- In the area of electronic health records, New Zealand is recognised as world leader. New Zealand GPs have the second-highest rate of electronic patient record use, second only to Denmark.

International innovations

Orion Health

Orion Health's easy-to-use solutions and applications improve patient care and clinical decision-making by providing integrated health data in a single, unified view. Its products give healthcare workers easy access to patient data and trends, and reduce errors and omissions by streamlining information transfer.

Selected as preferred provider of EHR viewers by Canada Health Infoway, Orion Health's software has been deployed in 20 countries, involving over 35 million patients.

ARANZ Medical

Advanced laser scanning technology developed by ARANZ is achieving international breakthroughs in wound assessment. ARANZ Medical's product suite Silhouette provides an efficient, non-contact and repeatable method for collecting and documenting information about wounds. This enables healthcare professionals to simply assess healing and has FDA approval, CE Marking, TGA and Canadian Ministry of Health approval.

Emendo

With experts predicting a future with huge pressures on healthcare and in particular staffing shortages, Emendo's capacity planning software is getting global attention. CapPlan captures information such as historic patient demand and real-time patient admittances and provides accurate and ongoing information about staffing requirements and availability of hospital resources. In the United Kingdom, Bedford Hospital has implemented CapPlan and describes it as "a real catalyst for sustainable change", putting weekly savings at around £6-12k for their wards alone.

Healthphone

Healthphone's mobile software solutions are designed for the community care, chronic care and aged care segments of the health sector. Their award-winning software for healthcare consumers and providers is delivered as a service to end customers by partners including TELUS, SingTel and Fujitsu. Healthphone currently operates in New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Intrahealth

Intrahealth has an international client base for its software offerings that coordinate patient care across communities and populations.

The Fraser Health Authority of British Columbia has selected Intrahealth to form a partnership style relationship to maximise the potential of Fraser Health Authority's Primary Care Renewal Project. And its technology



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underpins Canada's first aboriginal health data centre. Intrahealth's electronic medical records system has also been selected for the Physicians' Information Technology Office (PITO) initiative throughout British Columbia.

Industry contacts

[New Zealand Health IT Cluster](#)

The New Zealand Health IT Cluster is an alliance of organisations interested in health IT that are working collaboratively and sponsor innovative initiatives.

[Ministry of Health](#)

The Ministry of Health is a policy advisor to the Minister of Health. It is an agent of the Minister for monitoring and overseeing District Health Boards (DHBs), a funder of DHBs and national services such as national screening programmes, and a provider of regulatory and other functions in the public health sector.

[New Zealand Trade and Enterprise](#)

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) is the New Zealand government's economic development agency and works with the health IT industry to build up its capability and increase its international connections.

[Investment New Zealand](#)

A specialist unit within NZTE, Investment New Zealand is New Zealand's investment promotion agency and assists corporate investors to relocate their businesses to New Zealand, establish greenfield operations, and invest and work with New Zealand companies. It also matches strategic sectors like health IT with international investors to help fill gaps in New Zealand's value chain.

[New Zealand Health Information Service](#)

The New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS) is a group within the New Zealand Ministry of Health responsible for the collection and dissemination of health-related data.

[Health Information Strategy Action Committee](#)

The Health Information Strategy Action Committee (HISAC) is a Ministerial Advisory Committee established to provide governance, oversight and leadership for the implementation of the Health Information Strategy for New Zealand (HIS-NZ).