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Health & Social Care Information Centre

GP2GP

GP2GP enables patients' electronic health records to be transferred directly and securely between GP practices. It improves patient care as GPs will usually have full and detailed medical records available to them for a new patient's first consultation.

What is GP2GP transfer?

When a patient registers at a GP practice, GP2GP will be used to electronically transfer their Electronic Health Record (EHR) from their previous GP practice.

GP2GP electronic transfers are faster, more reliable and more secure than the current paper-based method of transferring patient records.

GP2GP is not a replacement for the transfer of paper-based records, which must continue for the foreseeable future until 100 per cent of GP practices are GP2GP enabled.

Why is GP2GP being introduced?

The current paper-based transfer system can take anything from a few weeks to a few months to complete. As a result, the new practice often does not have the benefit of the medical history contained in the patient's original medical record when he or she attends for the first consultation.

Although the majority of practices make use of computerised systems for creating records, not all the information printed-off from electronic health records for transfer is subsequently re-entered into systems at the receiving practices.

GMS contract

There is a contractual requirement to utilise the GP2GP facility for the transfer of patient records between practices, when a patient registers or de-registers (not for temporary registration). Practices should put these requirements in place as soon as possible and must, by 30 September 2014, publicise their plans to achieve this requirement by 31 March 2015.

How does it work?

GP2GP starts when a practice accepts a patient onto its list of patients for primary health care and ends when the EHR is transferred from the previous practice into the new GP's clinical system.

Once the patient is accepted and his/her identity has been matched using the Personal Demographic Service (PDS) a message is sent to the previous practice requesting a copy of the patient's EHR.

If the patient's former practice is also GP2GP-enabled an acknowledgement is sent stating whether or not it is able to provide the EHR extract.

If it is able to do so, then the EHR extract message is generated from the patient health record held on the GP clinical system and sent securely to the new practice for integration into its own GP clinical system.

Watch our video animation to find out more about how GP2GP works: www.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gpanimation

What are the benefits of using GP2GP?

GP2GP delivers a range of benefits, including:

Improved quality and continuity of care

- Full patient EHR available for the patient's first appointment, which results in a more focused and informed consultation.

- Past medical history available and information about medication, allergies, adverse reactions, immunisations and vaccinations.

www.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gp

GP2GP

Improved safety

- Fewer transcribing errors and omissions, the need to key in information from paper records will be greatly reduced.

- Allergies and adverse drug reactions are flagged for review for new patients, resulting in safer prescribing.

Clinical time savings

- The EHR contains information such as lab results and letters from specialists, which helps in the clinical decision-making process. This also means there are fewer requests for unnecessary duplicate lab tests.

Administrative time savings

- The need to key information from paper records is greatly reduced. This results in quicker summarisation of new patient records.

- Attachments received electronically, which results in time saved not having to re-scan items into the patient's EHR.

- Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) information populated immediately when a patient's EHR is integrated.

Deployment

GP2GP is rolled-out to practices in England which meet a range of 'entry and readiness criteria'.

Training is mandated before practices can go live with GP2GP. Training is delivered on-site and provided either by the clinical system suppliers or, where appropriate, by local CCG/CSU training teams.

Find out more about the documents available to support GP2GP end-user training: www.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gptraining

How can we help?

The GP2GP Implementation Team is here to help you plan and deliver your deployments for GP2GP, as well as offering general guidance, advice and support.

We can also assist you with managing existing GP2GP enabled sites by providing usage statistics and guidance aimed at ensuring practices are maximising the benefits of using GP2GP.

If you have any queries or require assistance, please contact the relevant Implementation Team Member:

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Find out more

Sign up to the GP2GP quarterly newsletter for updates, guidance and links to key pieces of information
www.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gpnews

CCGs and CSUs can sign up to the GP2GP Monthly Utilisation Reports at
www.hscic.gov.uk/gp2gputilisation

Further information about GP2GP can also be found in Chapter 8b of the Royal College of General Practitioners' *Good Practice Guidelines* for GP electronic patient records.