



## Electronic medical records, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

<b>Author</b>	Associate Professor Anthony Schembri AM, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney
<b>Topic</b>	Funding request for the electronic medical record at St Vincent's Health Network Australia, and their interest in hospital grade network modernisation.
<b>Analysis</b>	<p>St Vincent's Health Network Sydney (SVHNS) plans to modernise and upgrade their information technology infrastructure. SVHNS has submitted an electronic medical record (eMR) business case for 2021-22 budget consideration.</p> <p>SVHNS is seeking an 80 per cent contribution for the NSW Public component of the capital cost, which equates to \$62.5 million. On 13 October 2020, it was made clear in a meeting with NSW Health representatives that there were no sources for either capital or recurrent funding of this nature.</p> <p>eHealth NSW can provide support to SVHNS through the clinical health information exchange (CHIE). The CHIE works to support patient care across different settings and organisations with different eMR systems, including NSW Health local health districts (LHDs) and private hospital partners.</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	Sign the attached response stating there is no funding available for the SVHNS eMR and outlining other ways NSW Health can support technology modernisation through the CHIE and Health Grade Enterprise Network (HGEN).

### Key reasons

#### **SVHNS has submitted a business case to the Ministry for funding of their electronic medical record (eMR)**

SVHNS hopes to secure an integrated eMR and patient administration system (PAS) with MEDITECH, their preferred vendor of choice. MEDITECH will conduct an implementation planning study, over the next few months until June 2021, on behalf of SVHNS to prepare the organisation for implementation and identify areas of risk that require focus.

The ten-year total cost of ownership for St Vincent's Health Australia for the eMR initiative across all its Australian facilities is \$337 million. SVHNS is seeking an 80 per cent contribution (\$62.5 million) for the NSW Public component of the capital cost over three years and would make a capital contribution from local funds of \$13 million.

#### **On 13 October 2020, NSW Health met with St Vincent's Health senior executives**

Mr Daniel Hunter, Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management & Chief Financial Officer and Dr Zoran Bolevich, Chief Executive eHealth NSW & Chief Information Officer met with Ms Ruth Martin, St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) Group Chief Financial Officer, Mr Ken Gallacher, SVHA Chief information Officer and Todd McEwan, Director of Acute Care Services and Acting Chief Executive Officer.

The discussion included NSW Health's health grade enterprise network (HGEN) rollout, NSW Health's Single Digital Patient Record program and SHVA's national hospital grade network modernisation. SVHNS advised it has dated information technology infrastructure, which needs to be updated to support modern contemporary patient care and clinical information management.

It was made clear in the meeting that there were currently no sources of either capital or recurrent funding to support SVHNS' technology projects.

#### **SVHNS could be included in the clinical health information exchange (CHIE)**

eHealth NSW has enabled the progressive roll out of a CHIE to districts which will continue in parallel with, or as part of, the single digital patient record (SDPR) initiative. The CHIE is a patient centric clinical repository that allows disparate eMR systems to be connected through a specialised integration platform allowing individual clinicians to access a summary view of a patient's clinical

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information from across the state. The CHIE provides access to public patient health records from NSW Health LHDs and private hospital partners using different eMRs.

In July 2019, the first implementation phase of CHIE was completed and included health records from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast LHDs and Northern Beaches Private Hospital (PPP).

The information exchange may be an option for connecting St Vincent's Hospital electronic medical record system to NSW Health systems, assuming costs and privacy legislative obligations are met.

### **SVHNS is not currently part of eHealth NSW's Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR) Business Case**

SVHNS is not included in the scope of SDPR. eHealth NSW has started SDPR procurement activity and expects to release a restricted request for proposal in early 2021. The indicative timeframe for implementation would see the first LHD go-live in 2022-23, followed by progressive District roll-out over the following four years. This project is not funded however several avenues of funding are being explored.

The scope of the SDPR includes a full eMR capability including the ability to connect bio-medical devices and a patient portal to allow a digital patient/consumer engagement channel. eHealth NSW expects to contract the SDPR supplier on an as-a-service basis, based on a cost per unit, likely to be associated with number of concurrent users or another operational metric. Should this project proceed, and NSW Health determines that SVHNS can be included in SDPR, the solution could be offered in the same way assuming costs and privacy legislative obligations are met.

However, given that SVHNS have made their decision to proceed with MEDITECH, the SDPR is no longer an option for them, at least not in the short to medium term.

### **HGEN is a new approach to commissioning and providing hospital networking infrastructure 'as-a-service' and is being piloted across the state**

HGEN is focussed on delivering consistent and robust wireless and wired network infrastructure to address technology obsolescence across NSW hospitals, and to align technology capabilities of existing facilities with new builds being delivered by Health Infrastructure. HGEN is operating at three pilot sites: 1 Reserve Road, Coffs Harbour Hospital and the Central Acute Services Building at Westmead. A business case for statewide rollout is under development.

Mr Andrew Pedrazzini, Director, Digital Health Facilities and ICT Services Commissioning, eHealth NSW, has met with SVHNS executives to discuss the HGEN initiative and their potential inclusion in the HGEN statewide rollout. There is an outstanding action for SVHNS to provide further information to eHealth NSW to support analysis of the costs associated with including SVHNS in the statewide rollout of HGEN.

eHealth NSW understands SVHNS is also investigating the option to leverage the NSW Health related HGEN ICT standards but go to the market on their own and implement their local version of HGEN. If this approach is preferred, eHealth NSW could offer SVHNS advice and support for contracting and implementation of their local version of HGEN.

## Contact

Name	Position	Phone and email
Petra Milnes	Director, Office of the Chief Executive, eHealth NSW, Chief Information Officer	[REDACTED]

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**Approval**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
Dan Hunter	Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer	02/03/2021
Alfa D'Amato	Executive Director, System Financial Performance and Deputy Chief Financial Officer	01/03/2021
Dr Zoran Bolevich	Chief Executive, eHealth NSW and Chief Information Officer, NSW Health	01/03/2021
Cate Creswick	A/Senior Business Partner, Executive and Ministerial Services	02/03/2021 MT



# Health

Associate Professor Anthony Schembri AM  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 St Vincent's Health Network Sydney  
 Email: [REDACTED]

S20/482  
 Our ref S20/515

Dear Professor *Anthony* Schembri

Thank you for submitting a business case for 2021-22 budget consideration about St Vincent's Network Sydney (SVHNS) Electronic Medical Record (EMR) proposal and advising your preferred vendor, Meditech.

Providing a digitally enabled and integrated health system is a key priority for NSW Health.

I understand that on 13 October 2020, senior representatives of SVHNS met with NSW Health executives, including Dr Zoran Bolevich, Chief Executive, eHealth NSW and Mr Dan Hunter, Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management and Chief Financial Officer, NSW Ministry of Health. At this meeting it was clarified that NSW Health is unable to provide either capital or recurrent funding for a new EMR for SVHNS.

eHealth NSW would be happy to work with your team to explore how the Clinical Health Information Exchange (CHIE) could be used to provide real-time sharing of public patient health records between St Vincent's Hospital's EMR and NSW Health EMR systems. The CHIE supports continuity of care across different settings enabling clinicians to access a summary view of a patient's clinical information from across the state.

I am also advised that SVHNS is involved in ongoing discussions with representatives from eHealth NSW about the inclusion of SVHNS in the statewide health grade enterprise network (HGEN) rollout.

NSW Health will continue to partner with you to assist in implementing these important digital programs and realising the benefits that they deliver to patients.

Thank you again for writing. If you would like more information, please contact Dr Bolevich, at [REDACTED] or Mr Hunter at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

*E Koff*  
 Elizabeth Koff  
 Secretary, NSW Health

cc Mr Todd McEwan, Director of Acute Care Services, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney  
 Mr Daniel Hunter, Deputy Secretary, Finance and Asset Management & Chief Financial Officer NSW Health,  
 Dr Zoran Bolevich, Chief Executive, eHealth NSW

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