



Hi!

With the exciting developments in Telehealth in each of the regions, the forum thought you may be interested in an update on what is happening and also, maybe gain some ideas on how telehealth could work in your practice. Rather than writing volumes, websites and links have been provided so your time isn't wasted skimming through items which are of little interest to you. Reports and articles will also be provided as they become available. Let us know what you think.

Denise Irvine, NZ Telehealth Forum member

NZTF Website

The New Zealand Telehealth Forum is providing a new look to its website. Do go and visit. It contains case studies, upcoming events/conferences and other information which may be of interest to you. We welcome feedback on any areas which would be of value to you. The new address is:

<http://ithealthboard.health.nz/health-it-groups/new-zealand-telehealth-forum>

HINZ conference

NZTF will be presenting a four-hour workshop on "Barriers to Telehealth". Pat Kerr will also have a slot to present the findings of the Telehealth Stocktake which has just been completed. NHITB commissioned NZTF to conduct this. The information was collected through a survey of all DHBs in New Zealand to gain a base line of their involvement in telehealth.

Telehealth Demonstration Project

Bay of Plenty Report from Ernie Newman – Project Facilitator

The Telehealth Demonstration Project has been extended for a further 6 months through to February 2015, with Tairāwhiti District Health joining the three initial partners – the Bay of Plenty DHB, MBIE, and the National Health IT Board. Integral to the extension is a focus on increasing usage of the existing video infrastructure, rather than continuing to expand the coverage. Click [here](#) for further information.

Video capability installed by the Project is now widespread. It includes general practices, Maori health providers, hospices, general practices, and aged residential care facilities. As an example, all of the ten health clinics on the 340km drive from Opotiki around East Cape to Gisborne, operated by the Bay of

Plenty DHB to the west and Ngati Porou Hauora to the east, are now video-equipped.

As video becomes absorbed into work practices and clinical pathways it is beginning to show widespread benefits. These include more efficient use of scarce GPs, better support in emergencies, virtual specialty clinics run by hospitals (such as mental health, addiction, diabetes, smoking cessation and maternity), job satisfaction for rural GPs and nurses, and better health outcomes through more regular care and a reduction in non-attending. A high proportion of the beneficiaries are in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities.



The technology is proving quite simple, with excellent bandwidth in most health facilities due to the Government's broadband investments. Likewise concerns about security and medical risk have not been a problem, helped by supportive statements from the Medical Council and the National Health IT Board.

The real challenges are in change management, attracting the attention of an over-stretched health workforce, and the aging hardware which seems to be a feature of many parts of the health system.

A wish list for the Project would include better certainty and more support for the free version of the Cisco Jabber software being used; a better

New developments

In the last two months, the Waikato DHB has moved from the original Telehealth group, which got together two years ago, to the development of a project board which has resources provided. This has resulted in a very quick move forward in the introduction of telehealth into the region, a very exciting move for those who set up the original group.

Upcoming conferences

HINZ 13th annual conference Skycity Auckland 10th -12th November 2014 www.hinz.org.nz

Global Telehealth Conference – Canada May 29th-30th 2015. Hosted by COACH. www.GT2015.org

understanding by health service leaders of telehealth as a component of 21st century health service delivery; full and affordable interconnectivity amongst the various vendors; and a national approach to a directory of video-capable health services.

The Project is about today's health services, not just tomorrow's. The entire focus now is on cementing and building on the progress made to deliver substantial and meaningful benefits by the time it ends early next year. The foundations are well in place.

*Ernie Newman, Project Facilitator
ernie.newman@bopdhb.govt.nz*

The Midland region Telehealth group, which consists of five DHBs, set up about six months ago, is working with the Chief Operating Officers in the region to identify what is required of this group. We see the sharing of resources and case studies as vital, making the pathway forward easier for all of us, as well as enabling cost savings.

SFT-14 conference 17-18th November 2014 Adelaide.

<http://event.icebergevents.com.au/sft-2014>

(At present there are about 6 people from NZ who are attending this SFT-14 in Adelaide. If you are going, let us know and we could all catch up at the conference)

The following are the Programme Managers and NZTF members who can be contacted for further information at the DHBs in your region

Northland DHB – Roy Davidson
Roy.Davidson@northlanddhd.org.nz

Auckland DHB – Lucy Westbrook
lucyw@adhb.govt.nz

WaitemataDHB – Dr Robyn Whittaker
Robyn.Whittaker@waitematadhb.govt.nz

WaikatoDHB – Dr Ruth Large (Deputy Chair NZTF)
Ruth.Large@waikatodhb.health.nz

Denise Irvine (newsletter editor)
denise.irvine@e3health.co.nz

Bay of Plenty DHB – Ernie Newman
Ernie.Newman@bopdhd.govt.nz

Canterbury DHB – Dr John Garrett (Chair of NZTF)
John.Garrett@cdhb.health.nz

Nicole Redfern
TeleHealth@cdhb.health.nz

Pat Kerr – Principal Consultant
pat@telehealthnz.co.nz