



MediSecure Pty Ltd.

MEDIA RELEASE

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MediSecure responds to Patient Safety claims by HCN

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MediSecure Pty Ltd, the specific purpose company established to provide MediSecure[®], the secure and simple e-prescription solution, today responded to HCN's **ePrescribing in Medical Director** bulletin.

"HCN asserts patient safety issues arise through the method used to deliver e-prescriptions to the MediSecure Script Vault[®] from MD3. While this HCN assertion is unsupported by any facts, we take patient safety issues very seriously," said Paul Montgomery, MediSecure Chairman. *"That is why we have consulted extensively with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to keep the professional checks and balances in the e-prescription process so that both doctors and patients can be assured that the MediSecure[®] system adds to and improves patient safety and contributes to better health outcomes for individuals and the community. We believe that the fact the MediSecure[®] system is actively supported by the RACGP and the Australian Association of Practice Managers, two highly regarded professional bodies, speaks volume as to our approach and to the care and diligence we apply to ensuring a professional service that delivers the right result for patients, for the health professionals and for the health system overall."*

The MediSecure[®] e-prescription service receives e-scripts from its clinical messaging partners in the form defined in the Australian Standard for clinical data. MediSecure[®] is the only e-prescription service that complies with these clinical data standards. The script data is collected from the MD3 system using similar technology used by most Australian IT vendors to collect data from Medical Director. Examples of this include the Canning tool, the Pen CAT system and several other systems and tools used by the medical profession in the daily delivery of their primary health care services.

"HCN asserts that MediSecure compromises patient safety. They need to explain precisely how this is supposed to happen. We suggest that the RACGP is in fact the professional body that is best placed to comment on patient safety issues. RACGP has not raised any issue with us, simply because they have looked at the e-prescription process and understand the professional checks and balances that are in place to ensure the best patient and health system outcomes arise from the MediSecure[®] process", said Phillip Shepherd, CEO of MediSecure Pty Ltd.

In the e-prescriptions process, there are essentially three steps. The first is where the doctor creates the prescription on paper, checks it and signs it. MediSecure involvement is Nil other than to print a bar code. The Patient Safety impact of MediSecure involvement is Nil. The second step is where the patient takes the script to the pharmacist. MediSecure involvement nil; Patient safety impact Nil.

The third step is where the Pharmacist dispenses the medicine. The pharmacist can type the script in the traditional way and dispense as per normal practice with no MediSecure involvement and no change to existing Patient safety; or they can download the script from the MediSecure Script Vault[®]. This step forces the Pharmacist to check the data entered into the dispense system using his/her skills before signing off and dispensing. MediSecure populates the dispense system with the prescription data which the pharmacist checks at each step in the dispensing process. Patient safety is maintained by the professional pharmacist; it may improve with the absence of re-keying.

"The question for HCN is how does the eRx process differ from this? Is HCN saying that the HCN and eRx agreement places data electronically into the FRED dispense system without the pharmacist checking it? Just how does the HCN-eRx arrangement ensure patient safety? We believe HCN should table the eRx agreement and let everyone decide how it ensures patient safety. Certainly eRx does not use the Australian Standard for clinical data [IT-014] in its script message or for storing the e-scripts in its exchange. This proprietary approach shows a blatant disregard for the standards and for data privacy and safety", said Phillip Shepherd.

More information on MediSecure is available at www.medisecure.com.au

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