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## **GPs and primary health care to be central to eHealth progress**

Building up Australia's eHealth opportunities within the primary health care sector has been boosted with the announcement today that a consortium including the Australian General Practice Network [AGPN] will be undertaking the change and adoption program for personally controlled electronic health records [PCEHR] across the country.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said the consortium of nine organisations led by McKinsey and Company will roll out the concepts, workshops, training, tools and infrastructure that are needed to bring about a broader adoption of this important component to developing a coordinated approach to health care.

"The change and adoption consortium will focus on training and supporting the health workforce to ensure that the general practice and broader primary health care sector is ready to implement PCEHRs," Dr Djakic said.

"AGPN's stake in the change and adoption scheme is indicative of the central role General Practitioners will undertake in overhauling Australia's health record system.

"In addition, AGPN's involvement in this consortium confirms the vital role of the Divisions of General Practice and Medicare Locals which have the infrastructure and the reach in the primary health care sector to implement this complex initiative.

"Patients who opt in to have their own PCEHR will be taking part in a new system designed to streamline and manage clinical information more easily, and achieve better health outcomes for them.

"PCEHR will provide for greater accuracy with record keeping and in turn reduce the risks of misinformation and mismanagement of conditions when comprehensive information is available at the click of a button and can be shared by a variety of clinicians treating the same patient.

"Better management of health records will improve the quality of care in Australia producing better health outcomes," Dr Djakic said.

Change and Adoption Partner consortium led by McKinsey and Company:

- Australian General Practice Network
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Hill and Knowlton
- Workstar
- Event Planet
- Ocean Informatics
- Alfred Health
- Salmat

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