

Request for GP and Network Representation

Lead Agency/Program: **SA Health – Enterprise Patient Administration System (EPAS)**

Representative Group: EPAS Implementation Advisory Group

Objective:

The procurement and implementation of an enterprise patient administration system is a key step in SA Health's goal to implement an integrated electronic health record. In 2009 SA Health established an EPAS Project Board to commence the procurement process for an EPAS to deliver clinical and administrative functionality across the patient journey from primary to acute care over the next 10-20 years.

An Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) is being established with Professor Paddy Phillips, Chief Medical Officer, as its Chair. The IAG will oversee the development of a Program Plan to provide advice to the EPAS Program Board, chaired by Dr Tony Sherbon, on the implementation approach and commercial model, and will be used as an input into commercial negotiations with vendors providing services to SA Health to deliver the EPAS program.

The Plan will also confirm the level of commitment required across SA Health, assist in confirming the strategies required to support change and identify the level of communication needed when implementing the system.

To strengthen SAH's approach towards integration and sharing of information with general practice, GPSA has been invited to nominate a GP representative to the IAG.

Participation requested: GP Representative, EPAS Implementation Advisory Group.

Compensation: Sitting fee as per SA Health policy at GPSA hourly rate (\$144 per hour).

Meeting frequency and dates: To be advised.

Background:

The EPAS program represents a significant change throughout SA Health, such that most clinicians, nursing and support staff will be affected by the introduction of the new systems and in particular the new capabilities and associated ways of working.

The tender closed for the SA Health EPAS at the end of January 2010 and since then a detailed evaluation process has been undertaken. Although a decision on a preferred solution is not expected until late 2010, it is now critically important to commence planning on the timing and approach for the EPAS implementation.

Based on international experience, including the EPAS Program in other parts of Australia, New Zealand and the UK's National Health Service, the EPAS is expected to be a complex people, process and technical program, which will extend across a four to five year implementation schedule.

The complexity of this Program is revealed within its scope of:

- All public acute hospitals • GP Plus Centres • Mental Health • Prisoner Health • Aboriginal Health • Geriatric Care • Nursing Home (as applicable to SA Health) • Rehabilitation • Hospice Cares • Home Care.

The EPAS Program aims to achieve a number of benefits, including:

- Sharing information electronically to improve the coordination of health services through increased accuracy and timeliness of patient information.
- Enhancing patient safety and a higher standard of patient care.

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- Improving communication between patient, doctors, nursing staff and other service providers enabling increased quality and satisfaction of healthcare.
- Enabling continuity of patient care across the public hospital system resulting in better quality in service delivery.
- Providing clinicians with the ability to quickly access patient information regardless of where their patient presents for treatment.
- Sharing patient information on a standard information system across the public health system, making patient information available at the point of care.
- Storing patient clinical information in a secure and protected manner within the SA public health care sector, with access restricted to authorised personnel. Users are required by law to maintain patient confidentiality.

Contact: Mr Justin English, A/Director Health Care Information Systems Operations, SA Health
justin.english@health.sa.gov.au

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest and a brief CV should be forwarded to General Practice SA by **Thursday, 24 June 2010** together with a letter of support from the Division.

Please email to Jenny Sadler at jenny.sadler@gpsa.org.au.

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