



TARANAKI PATIENT CARE REVOLUTIONISED THROUGH MOBILE DATA SOLUTIONS

"The AMS mobility platform is saving each public health nurse more than five hours a week in admin time and allowing them to see more patients and spend more quality time treating those they visit."

Kelly Iremonger - Public Health Nurse Coordinator, Taranaki DHB

Behind the Business

DIGITISING PAPERWORK GIVES NURSES EXTRA TIME TO TREAT PATIENTS

Thanks to Spark's AMS mobility platform.

With an ever-increasing demand for both health education and treatment in the community, Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) is embracing a new mobile data solution that is speeding up administration tasks for its public health nurses, who care for adolescents in their homes or in schools.

Using a single mobile platform, the solution called AMS is proving to be the answer to the growing amount of paperwork and patient record keeping. Delivered via an application to mobile tablets, AMS is enabling nurses to spend more time with patients during their visits.



Digital records key to better-quality health care

Public Health Nurse Coordinator Kelly Iremonger says that while it's only been two months, AMS is already providing a number of benefits.

"Electronic form filling is helping us to fast-track the paperwork we need to complete as we work with children and families in the community, and more importantly, freeing us up so we can spend more quality time with them," said Kelly.

"No longer do we have to cart suitcases of files and forms around to school or home-visits, nor do we need to return to the hospital to enter the patient data onto a number of different spreadsheets.

"Instead, we can securely enter patient data directly onto the mobile device - patients' feedback so far is that they think it's 'pretty cool' that their details are entered directly into an app and the paperwork side of things is speedy."

Not only are the nurses able to spend more focused time treating patients, but also they get to see more patients per day, confirms Kelly.

"It's saving each public health nurse at least five hours per week in data entry and photocopying time alone and we have estimated it will save me, as the team leader, around 192 hours a year in creating reports."

About Taranaki District Health Board

- 1 of 20 national district health boards
- Serves a population of 118,110 people
- Employs approximately 1,787 health and medical staff
- 20 adolescent public health nurses serving 4-18 year olds
- 1 dedicated public health nurse per school

"The data entered into the mobile device securely feeds back into the hospital patient management system and onto the patient's health record in real-time, offering an immediate and complete view of a patient's history," adds Kelly.

"It's helping our public health nurses and the wider Taranaki DHB staff, such as those working in the emergency department, from having to repeat information and make more effective decisions at the point-of-care."



Smart design, effective treatment

Taranaki DHB IT Project Manager John Moodie attributes much of the solution's success to a collaborative partnership between the clinical team, the IT team and Spark who have co-created a simple, yet smart design that is a true enabler for nurses working in the field.

"Since we've introduced things like mandatory fields and checkboxes there's improved standardisation around the filling-in of forms. We have also interfaced AMS to our Patient Management System so that nurses are able to identify and select the correct patient using their National Health Index (NHI) number.

"Also, when required, the data entered by a nurse can be sent direct to the Public Health doctor for immediate sign-off. The doctor receives a notification alert to say the information is ready for validation. He or she can quickly review the information and then sign-off by using the tablet to electronically write their signature.

Choosing AMS Mobility for Health from Spark means choosing a patient-centred solution that is connected, flexible, secure and supported.

If you're ready to create better health outcomes for your patients, speak to your Client Manager or call us on:

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"We're constantly improving the forms so they can intelligently automate many of the calculations nurses need to make; such as Body Mass Index (BMI) or safe administration of time-sensitive medications.

"AMS is helping us to meet our data privacy requirements and ensure greater patient confidentiality," adds John. "All of the information on the device is encrypted, a secure, unique password is in place on every tablet, and data on the device can be deleted remotely if the tablet is lost or stolen.

"What's more, the electronic information is sent and stored using Spark's secure, private in-country mobile application platform, which is part of the New Zealand Connected Health Network."

"We've calculated savings at around \$60,000K per year on data entry and consumables alone and we're already looking at how we can apply AMS to improve clinical workflows and patient care across our other units."

John Moodie - IT Project Manager, Taranaki DHB

More advantages yet to be realised

With all of its 20 public health nurses using AMS, the savings is calculated at around \$60,000 per year on data entry and consumables alone.

Taranaki DHB is already discussing further innovations and the advantages of using the same mobile platform to improve clinical workflows and patient care across its other community units; namely district and mental health.

"AMS is such an agile and secure front-door solution for managing data and mobilising older systems that would otherwise be difficult do. Once fully embraced across all of our community services, it has huge advantages for healthcare planning and delivery across the Taranaki region.

"In fact, our key learning and the design of the solution can easily be shared with and re-used by our fellow DHB's and other healthcare providers. It would help them to implement similar initiatives very quickly and with less resource required to make digitising records a reality," finishes John.

Taranaki DHB partnered with Spark as its provider for mobile devices, mobile data plans, security and the AMS mobility platform for all its health solutions.



AMS Mobility Platform

Allows data to be recorded straight to an app via mobile devices.



No need for paperwork



Saving each team leader **192** hours per year



Saving each nurse **5** hours per week

\$60K

Saving in data entry for the business