



Client Profile

South Western Sydney
Primary Health Network

Sydney, New South Wales,
Australia

OVERVIEW

- One of 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) established by the Australian Government to increase efficiency and effectiveness of health and medical services across the local community.
- Serves a population of 1.1 million people spread across seven local government areas of Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Camden, Campbelltown, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee
- Area profile includes 429 Private General Practices, 6 Public Hospitals, 1,139 General Practitioners, 403 Practice Nurses and more than 400 Private Specialist Clinics

SOLUTIONS

- dbMotion™ Solution
- dbMotion™ Clinical Viewer
- dbMotion™ EHR Agent
- dbMotion™ Clinical Analytics Gateway



Enabling clinicians to improve productivity and efficiency while improving patient outcomes



Driving timely communication between primary care settings and hospitals



Aggregating and harmonising patient consented data from disparate systems, delivering information to clinicians in a usable and actionable format at the point of care

CASE STUDY

Innovative technology partnership is powering a growing cloud-connected community health network



Interoperability and access to information— a perennial challenge

South Western Sydney Primary Health Network's (SWSPHN) innovative Integrated Real-time Active Data (iRAD) interoperability project has enabled healthcare organisations to share patient-consented health records across the continuum of care. This case study examines the rationale for the implementation of iRAD, the innovation that drives it and how it may become Australia's most comprehensive connected community health network.

One of the biggest challenges facing healthcare delivery is the sharing of clinical datasets from multiple services and disparate systems. It is broadly accepted that easy and timely access to patient information across different sites, for example, the patient records of a general practice and a hospital situated in the same community, enables clinicians to be better informed leading to improved patient health outcomes.

Interoperability in the Australian healthcare system continues to stagnate. Efforts are in place to remedy this but accessibility, timeliness of information and lack of quality data remains a significant challenge. Ensuring a continuum of care is a major priority in Australia and around the globe.

South Western Sydney—the setting for Project iRAD

SWSPHN is one of 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across Australia. Funded by the federal (national) government, these nonprofit organisations were established to improve patient care and to, generally, make healthcare in Australia more efficient and effective. They support local doctors, health workers and patients in the communities they serve. Primary healthcare is generally the first line of service in the Australian healthcare system – typically, general practitioners. One of the major objectives of Primary Health Networks is to improve the links between local health services and hospitals.

SWSPHN serves a population of 1.1 million people spread across seven government areas. Its footprint comprises six public hospitals, seven private hospitals, 75 Aged Care facilities and over 400 general practices.



About Project iRAD

In 2017, SWSPHN partnered with Altera Digital Health to develop Project iRAD (integrated Real-time Active Data). iRAD is now pioneering open, connected health communities in Australia – a flagship project committed to achieving better patient outcomes and which reflects the enthusiastic willingness of a diverse range of health service providers to deliver their services as part of a connected community in Australia. The project is also validated by the willingness of patients to participate, with consent recorded on a patient and healthcare setting levels.

Altera Digital Health's role in iRAD is in the delivery of its interoperability platform, dbMotion, which is available to the Australian market through the cloud via Microsoft Azure. iRAD is the first implementation of dbMotion in the Asia-Pacific region and is also the first implementation globally on the Microsoft Azure platform.

The dbMotion platform solves the problem of scattered patient health information across many systems and sites. It aggregates and harmonises patient consented data from Australian primary care clinical information systems, delivering the information clinicians need in a usable and actionable format at the point of care.

iRAD was established to enhance the sharing of patient information, typically, when the patient is accessing services in more than one setting. These incorporate general practices, outpatient services, antenatal shared care sites, after-hours clinics, residential aged care and palliative care services. iRAD shares a host of patient and clinical information datasets, including:

- Demographics
- Pathology
- Encounters
- Diagnoses
- Radiology
- Surgical Procedures
- Medications
- Immunisations
- Documents
- Allergies
- Vital Signs

For clinicians, the benefits of iRAD includes access to reliable health information through a simple and intuitive system that aids informed clinical decision-making. iRAD also reduces the administrative burden by saving time and limiting duplication.

iRAD is also a breath of fresh air for patients, who no longer have to explain their health issues to multiple clinicians or having duplicate tests undertaken unnecessarily. Patients can also rest assured that their privacy is respected and safeguarded through the secure hosting of patient information in the cloud through Microsoft Azure. Easier access to information also means that patients with low health literacy or language barriers also benefit.

The pilot phase of the iRAD project, which successfully concluded in mid-2020, included a number of innovative general practices and an after-hours service.

What's next for iRAD?

Since the completion of the pilot phase, iRAD continues to expand with the intention of becoming Australia's most comprehensive connected community health network.

By the end of August 2020, an additional thirty sites within the South Western Sydney region, which includes GPs, after-hours clinics and specialists contributed to the iRAD platform. A further 40 sites will adopt the iRAD project including sites from within the Western New South Wales Primary Health Network within the next six months, demonstrating how easily the solution can scale.

The goal going forward to mid-2021 is to increase the number of participating Acute Care, Aged Care and other specialists as well as enabling other PHNs to join.



"Drawing on extensive consultation with GPs and specialists, we identified a need in the Australian practice setting for an application capable of accurately drawing agreed clinical datasets from a number of disparate systems to provide clinicians with prompt access to a patient's current health information in one concise view on their desktop without having to leave that patient's file. Project iRAD's adaptation of dbMotion for the Australian market does exactly that."

Keith McDonald,
Chief Executive Officer

To learn more, visit
au.alterahealth.com

