

Richmond GP Alliance is first with end-to-end GP interoperability

The Richmond GP Alliance (RGPA) is delighted to announce that GPs and nurses working at its extended appointment hubs are the first in the country to view and add to the electronic medical records stored in the Vision and EMIS Web systems at patients' registered practices. This has been made possible by Vision 360, an innovative interoperability solution from INPS and its partners.

The seven-day access scheme, which received a one-off £2.6 million investment from the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund, is available to every patient in Richmond and allows them to book additional appointments at four hubs from 8am to 8pm every day, including weekends.

With the consent of the patients, Vision 360 makes it easy for GPs and nurses working at these hubs to find, read and update any patient record quickly and easily with a single search across the entire population of Richmond Borough no matter where the patient is registered.

For the first time, consultation notes that are added during an extended access appointment are being relayed back to the registered practice and added to the patient record in the principal system as structured, clinically coded data.

INPS CEO, Max Brighton said: "Many people believe the misconception that each GP practice in an area must be using the same clinical IT system in order to participate in schemes that make patient records available to other GPs. In Richmond, Vision 360 is giving authorised clinicians sight of the medical records stored in 22 practices using Vision and 5 practices using EMIS Web, as well as making it possible to write new information entered during extended access appointments back to the system at the patient's registered practice, regardless of whether that system is Vision or EMIS Web. The Richmond GP Alliance must be congratulated for being the first organisation to deliver a true end-to-end interoperability solution that really benefits the local community and embraces the spirit of GPs choosing the system they want to use."

Dr. Darren Tymens, chairman of the RGPA said: "The potential for integrating IT and cutting huge swathes of paperwork across primary and secondary care using this



system is enormous. Having up-to-date electronic patient records available during extended access appointments was a fundamental prerequisite for our seven-day access scheme. Being able to access and rapidly update the patient's own GP clinical record from any authorised location is fantastic. We are excited to be the first group of GP practices in the country to have end-to-end interoperability with Vision and EMIS Web systems."

Grant Oliver, RGPA Project Manager said: "We investigated a number of solutions to the interoperability problem and decided that the INPS offer was the only one that would give us 'read and write' capability between two clinical systems. As with all IT projects it was not without its challenges but INPS were able to deliver to time on the project."