

Secure image storage: A new hope?

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**Who has seen this before?
Personal pictures and horrible
wounds side-by-side on a phone!**

Background

Many staff realise that it is not optimal to have clinical images on personal devices, inter-mingled with personal images, and not well protected. Particularly with cloud-based storage which can auto-link data with shared devices, including child's devices! But what's the alternative?

Challenges

- How to securely capture, forward and store images and protect patient privacy, for all images, not just burns.
- How to work with government agencies to address all aspects of the issue and merge with current electronic medical records
- Working with different health districts with different software capabilities/availabilities

Initial process

Working with eHealth NSW burn clinicians consulted on what is required and how best to address the issue. Consultation also included non-burn clinicians from wounds, dermatology and emergency.

Unfortunately the project did not include a storage option for the first phase. This was to come later, but how can you create an image system without the storage?

A smart device application to enable images to be taken and sent, not stored on the device was decided on. The concept was developed and tender paperwork created to seek a developer.

And this is where the wheels fell off and the project stalled at the critical time...

New challenge

So the new challenge became working with government agencies and ensuring all aspects of the project were addressed.

Process

We liaise with clinical staff about the logistics and legalities of the issue. We also trial available products and advise on workability.

We continue working towards the goal of secure image capture, forwarding and storage.

Discussion

When we expected sign-off and go-ahead we got a roadblock in the form of questions about the direction and outcome of the project.

We hope to be able to adapt a currently available product to make it suit the purpose of all and finally address the issue of safe and secure image capture, forward and storage.....

The saga continues.....

