
From: SIERANT, Rowena [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 2:57 PM
To: Mahony, Andrew <andrew.mahony@accc.gov.au>
Cc: Channing, Darrell <darrell.channing@accc.gov.au>; MARTIN, Rowena [REDACTED]
PEASCOD, Sam [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: eRx Script Exchange application for re-authorisation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Andrew,

Sorry for the delay in the reply. I have answered the questions below and happy to discuss over the phone as well if required.

Regards

Rowena

Rowena Sierant
Director, Digital Delivery Section
Digital Health and Services Australia Branch
Benefits Integrity & Digital Health Division | Department of Health
 [REDACTED] |  [REDACTED]

From: Mahony, Andrew
Sent: Monday, 19 October 2020 12:03 PM
To: Sierant, Rowena [REDACTED]
Cc: Channing, Darrell <darrell.channing@accc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: eRx Script Exchange application for re-authorisation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Rowena,

Thanks again for the Department of Health's submission on eRx's application for authorisation.

We've been progressing our assessment and just had a few follow up questions we hoped you could help with:

- Could you please expand on the Department's view that interoperability 'is expected to continue to provide benefits to the public beyond [the 2020-21 financial year]'?

The Department has fast tracked implementation of electronic prescribing with significant uptake as part of this process. The infrastructure that is supported by the CPA funding provides the fundamental basis for electronic prescribing and interoperability of the Prescription Exchange Services is integral to this infrastructure. Interoperability has been included in the technical framework for electronic prescribing and will

continue to enable patient choice of clinical provider, especially pharmacies, that is an important part of the policy framework for supply of medicines to the Australian community.

- Possibly relatedly, we note that eRx is seeking authorisation until mid-2025. Could you please confirm whether the Department has any view on the suitability of authorisation continuing beyond the point at which the Department intends to establish direct arrangements with the PESs (FY21 onwards)?

The Department is comfortable with the authorisation aligning with the CPA timeline (the 7 CPA is in place until 2025) as although the mechanism may change the funding is proposed to continue for the life of the 7CPA.

- Is the Department aware of any potential new PES entrants (noting the submission by an interested party claiming to be a 'potential entrant' in response to eRx's application, available [here](#))?

Prescription exchanges are a competitive market and the Department has from time to time received expressions of interest from other providers to become PESs. An interoperable ecosphere is essential to foster this competition.

We're happy to discuss these questions on a call if easiest, but short email responses would also be perfectly fine for our purposes.

Kind regards,

Andrew Mahony

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