

PRESS RELEASE



Adastra Spearheads Summary Care Record Roll-out

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The project to deliver the NHS CFH Summary Care Record (SCR) in an out-of-hours setting has been successfully launched in Bury, Lancashire. Following the completion of commissioning tests, the link between the BARDOC (Bury & Rochdale Doctors on Call) Adastra system and the National Spine was activated on 10th December, five days ahead of schedule.



Samantha Crump enters first patient encounter using the PDS link

As a first step in supporting the SCR, Adastra has integrated a Patient Demographic Service (PDS) look-up in its case entry process. This will serve both to validate the patient's demographic detail and establish their NHS number. Where it is present, the Summary Care Record will then be offered to authorised clinicians as an integral and seamless component of the Adastra encounter.

This development builds on substantial effort by the Adastra development team to achieve spine compliance and it follows acceptance earlier this year of the Company's Patient Safety Case, itself a mammoth endeavour given the complexities of controlling information flow across the boundaries of in- and out-of-hours care.

Roll-out of the SCR across England was announced in the NHS Operating Framework (NHS Informatics Planning 2009/10), released earlier this week. A detailed implementation schedule will follow for the 60 or so operational hub services which form Adastra's user base in England. In effect this will extend availability of the PDS, NHS Number and SCR to well over 90% of out-of-hours services and around half of the network of NHS walk-in centres. This represents around 10 million urgent and out-of-hours patient encounters annually.

The first PDS connection on go-live day was for a patient encounter being entered by BARDOC Supervisor Samantha Crump "I was surprised how easy it was to use. It will make it so much easier to ensure accuracy in collecting patient details". That patient case was then managed by Bury GP Dr Zahir Mohammed, who was able to review the patient's SCR. "I am pleasantly surprised at the quality of information made available and its slick presentation. This will be of great help in delivering effective urgent healthcare".

For NHS CFH, SCR Programme Director, James Hawkins, said "Part of the vision of the Summary Care Record Programme is to provide healthcare professionals access to information that in the past was not readily available, supporting safer care, more efficient health services and improved patient experiences.

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The Adastra solution, with access to the PDS, NHS number and the SCR is a major step on this journey and will help improve the way that Urgent and Emergency Care services work together in delivering coordinated care”.

Dr Gillian Braunold, Clinical Director of the SCR and HealthSpace programme said: "GPs working in out-of-hours will be able to seamlessly access the SCR from within the native Adastra application. This is an essential requirement before national roll out of Summary care record and will enable speedy access to Summary Care Record for millions of patient contacts in out-of-hours."

Adastra Medical Director Dr Alex Yeates emphasised the stepwise nature of SCR development. "The key achievement here will be to establish a proven and reliable structure for summary information to be presented at any point of care. Once the framework is in place NHS CFH can turn its attention to developing record content, and that is what the clinical community will be most excited about".

Speaking for BARDOC, Medical Director Dr Rob Stokes sees the immediate value of PDS connection. "These developments will be extremely helpful to our bridging with hospital and GP services so that we keep information flow in step with each patient's onward referral, and of course it means we should find it straightforward to comply with the NHS Number programme."

Adastra is now part of the Advanced Computer Software Group led by CEO Vin Murria. "We are delighted to be supporting NHS CFH in achieving such far-reaching system and service integration strategy. We look forward very much to building on the NHS CFH-Adastra partnership."

About Adastra

Adastra is the leading patient management system for unscheduled care in walk-in centres, community nurse teams, GP out-of-hours services, call-centres, urgent care clinics and many other primary care services across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland and The Netherlands. Adastra helps clinicians, operational service providers and healthcare commissioners manage, connect, integrate and measure more than 14 million episodes annually across Europe.

Adastra is an Advanced Computer Software Plc group company.

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