

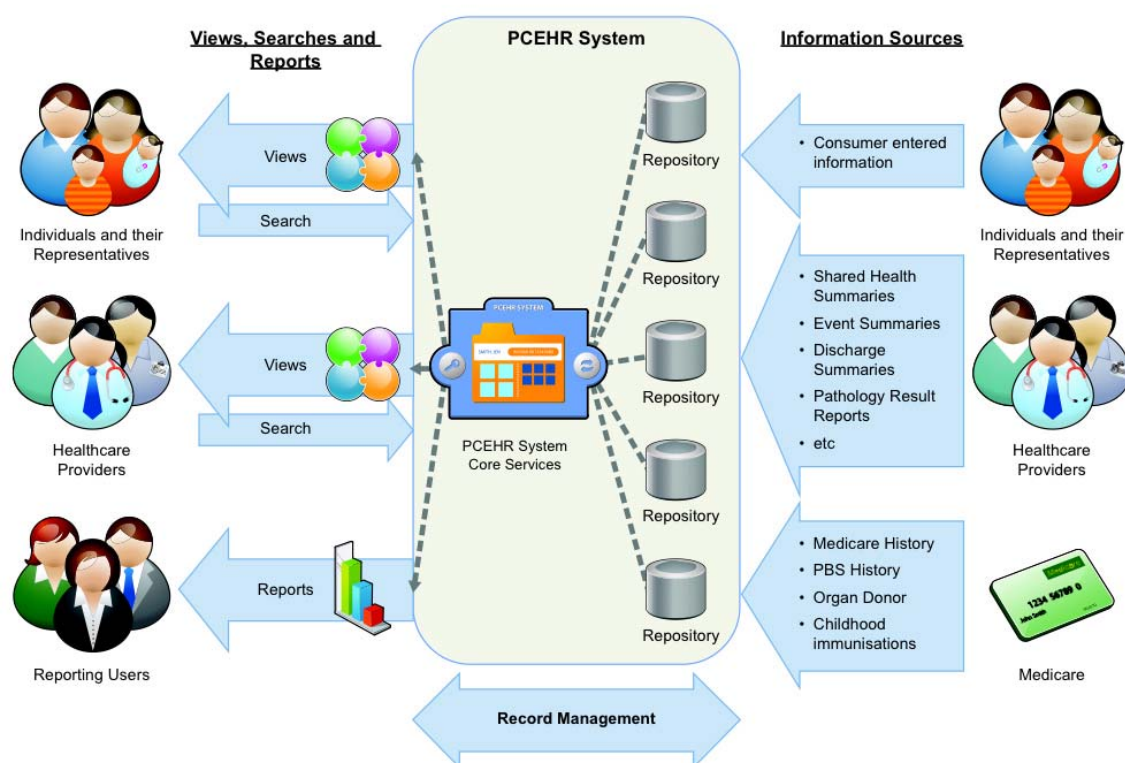
The Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record

Chris Pearce¹

¹Melbourne East GP network and PCEHR program

Associate Professor Christopher Pearce is a practising clinician in general practice, anaesthetics and emergency medicine, and an academic with a passion for the benefits that health informatics can bring. His PhD focused on the social aspects of computing in health and he now has both research and policy experience in ehealth.

To have access to health information at the right time, and with the right people, is an important goal of any health system. The advent of E-Health (using electronic systems to enhance healthcare delivery) is an important facilitator in that process, allowing the right information for the right patient at the right time.



In 2010 the federal government allocated \$467M to the establishment of a Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record, a system of allowing consumers to have access to their health information and for all their health providers to have similar access. Importantly, information (such as hospital discharge summaries) will remain where they were created. The PCEHR will link information across various providers.

Seen above, the system includes several central elements involved in record management. Using Individual Health Identifiers, an index service will keep track of the location of an individual's records. Records will include a shared health summary, discharge summaries, MBS/PBS data, and will over time include many other documents. Consumers will access the service via a consumer portal, where they will be able to view information, and set access controls over it. Providers will be able to also access the information, either by a provider portal or through their existing clinical systems.

More details on the proposed system can be found at:

<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/pcehr>