

After a detailed internal review and analysis, the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) is pausing implementation of Primary Care desktop software development around its specifications for the eHealth pilot sites. The pilot sites were funded to implement regional eHealth capability and are not part of the national infrastructure for the PCEHR system.

This pause will impact work currently being undertaken by The Primary Care eHealth Network Sites (Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local, Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local, Hunter Urban Medicare Local and Accoras (Brisbane South). Greater Western Sydney, St Vincent's, Calvary, Cradle Coast, NT and Mater will be impacted on the primary care elements of their projects. This issue should not impact delivery by Medibank, FredIT and JEHDl.

NEHTA is acting after internal checks detected issues in the latest release of its specifications in November 2011.

None of the software has ever gone live this is about quality control to ensure absolute confidence in the software being used in the eHealth pilot sites. One of the reasons for having these sites was to test software and 'iron out the bugs' prior to the national infrastructure go live.

Our specifications are subject to rigorous assessment processes. These processes highlighted some technical incompatibilities across versions. We have identified problems with the specifications and have made the decision in order to avoid any risks.

NEHTA will continue to work with the eHealth pilot sites and the Primary Care software vendors to recalibrate their activity within the eHealth programme.

NEHTA is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The pilot sites were established to test and deploy software and eHealth capability in real world health care settings prior to the introduction of the PCEHR. The pilot site and national infrastructure projects have operated in parallel, but neither is a critical dependency for the other project.

In large projects of this scale it is not unusual for problems of this type to arise. We are working to manage this situation to ensure the programme is delivered.