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Health workers head towards paperless system

Patients' medication management at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is set to improve with the change from paper charts to the Electronic Medication management system (eMeds)

eMeds Project Manager Sally Walker said almost 2000 hospital staff – more than 92 per cent – had been trained in the system.

“The state eMeds programs will reduce medication errors, improve accuracy and visibility of medication information and improve communication with patients about their medication,” Ms Walker said.

“It gives staff legible medication charts 24-hours a day. Staff can prescribe, review and administer medications to patients which frees up time for clinicians to spend with patients.

“The project will continue implementation of eMeds across the District to Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden, Bowral & District and Fairfield Hospitals.”

In addition to the training of staff, the multimillion dollar project has integrated a significant number of computers into the clinical workflow. This includes all-in-one workstations on wheels, laptops and tablets for medication dispensing

All clinical staff, including medical, nursing, pharmacy and allied health, will benefit from additional hardware which will increase access to the system.

The project team members are using their clinical skills to ensure a smooth implementation of eMeds across the District.

“We also have the advantage that eMeds is live all across the state. We have taken lessons learned from other local health districts and applied them to our system,” Ms Walker said.

“Bankstown staff have been absolutely amazing to work with. The project team has loved every minute.”

The implementation of eMeds across NSW Health continues apace, with plans for a further 102 hospitals to “go live” by June 2020.

This was made possible by the 2017/18 State Budget's investment in digital health, which allocated \$236 million towards extending eMeds rollout across the state's public hospitals.