



Easyclaim fears put to rest

GPs using PracSoft software will have access to an integrated electronic claiming system under the new Medicare Easyclaim system.

Practice managers and GPs had feared the new system would not be integrated with practice management software, meaning they would have to key in consultation information twice.

Three financial institutions — NAB, the Commonwealth Bank and Tyro (formerly Money-Switch) — have signed up to provide the Easyclaim system, which uses the EFTPOS network to allow privately billed patients to receive their Medicare rebate instantly.

Tyro has now signed a deal with the Health Communication Network, which owns both PracSoft and Blue Chip, to provide an integrated claiming system.

HCN CEO Mr John Frost said customers should soon receive information on the system, but an implementation date had not been set.

Practices that intend to use the system would need a Tyro terminal, which has EFTPOS, credit card and Easyclaim processing capabilities and automatically transfers information to PracSoft or Blue Chip software.

Mr Frost said the new system was “incredibly simple to use”,

but training would be offered to interested practices and divisions.

PracSoft is used by more than 3000 practices — almost all of them general practices — making it the most popular practice management software.

Tyro CEO Mr Jost Stollman said he hoped other software providers would also want to integrate with Tyro’s claiming model. NAB is also looking at integration with other software providers.

HCN, which is owned by Primary Health Care, dominates the clinical software market, with 85% of computerised GPs using Medical Director.

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