9 August 2017

Forging the future of Community Health

NSW Health provides care from 280 community health centres across the state, allowing patients to receive treatment within their own homes or neighbourhoods, and preventing unnecessary hospital visits.

Next week, Sydney Local Health District's Director of Integrated Clinical Systems and Information Management, Community Health, Dianna Jagers, will lead the discussion at a statewide forum exploring the digital health needs of community health professionals.

eHealth NSW's Community Health-focussed Clinical Engagement Forum will be held next Wednesday, August 16 from 5pm at Liverpool Hospital Auditorium, and will be live video streamed across NSW.

Dianna Jagers

"This is a welcomed opportunity to forge consensus on how clinical technology used by community health professionals can and should be improved," Ms Jagers said.

"It's also a chance to consider how technology could help us deliver better, more consistent care in community settings in the future."

According to Ms Jagers, some of the most pressing issues for discussion include:
- timeliness of changes to digital systems to reflect changes to reporting requirements;
- greater input from community health professionals in the change process;
- inclusion of Local Health Districts' unique requirements within a statewide solution, and
- integration with clinical information systems outside the primary electronic medical records (e.g. maternity).

Other panellists on the evening will include:
- Dr Grant Sara, Director, InforMH, Health System Information and Performance Reporting Branch, NSW Ministry of Health;
- Justin Duggan, General Manager, Primary and Community Health, South Western Sydney Local Health District, and
- Rick Turner, Program Manager for the Rural LHDs and Health Networks, eHealth NSW.

"While part of this forum will focus on the unique digital health needs and workflows of community health professionals, there will still be lots of time dedicated to more general eHealth discussion relevant to all NSW Health clinicians," said eHealth NSW's Chief Clinical Information Officer Dr John Lambert. "As always, these forums are as much about receiving insights from clinicians as they are about sharing information with clinicians."

For more information call (02) 8644 2485 or email eHNSW-OCCIO@health.nsw.gov.au or **register here**.