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## Electronic medication goes live at RPA

eHealth NSW's electronic medication management (eMeds) program has reached a critical milestone with its biggest 'go-live' to date at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital starting today.

The highly anticipated go live at RPA is the second eMeds roll out for Sydney Local Health District following on from Concord Hospital.

eMeds is now live at 19 hospitals with plans to roll out to 178 due to the funding boost announced in the 2017/18 state Budget. The funding included a record \$536 million investment in transformative digital health initiatives over the next eight years.



eHealth NSW's eMeds went live at RPA this morning.

The 1,000-bed RPA is significant as it is one of the state's largest hospitals. It is also at the forefront of healthcare delivery, world-leading research, high quality education and leadership in healthcare.

Clinicians greeted the roll-out enthusiastically, with Dr Tamsin Waterhouse, Acting Director of Medical Services for Sydney Local Health District, saying she was excited about electronic medication management as "it will make it faster and safer to do our job."

"We are seeing more and more integration of technology in medicine," she said. "Drug interaction alerts, clinical decision rules, duplicate dosing warnings – all these sorts of things are really important as they help to make things safer for patients."

The eHealth NSW and Sydney Local Health District implementation team also collaborated on the successful roll-out at Concord, with the District winning silver in the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management.

The District's Director of Pharmacy, Rosemary Burke, was involved in the Concord eMeds rollout firsthand and knows how it can improve patient care.

"At Concord, we had a 60 per cent reduction in prescribing errors and a 44 per cent reduction in serious prescribing errors as well as a reduction in administration errors."

This sentiment was shared by the eMeds Chief Medical Information Officer, Dr Angus Ritchie, who said the information communications and technology programs were led by clinicians and were going to work for clinicians in clinical practice.

"eMeds will help clinicians deal with more complex problems while in a busy clinical environment such as correct dosing of antibiotics, avoidance of side effects when we know a patient has had a side effect in the past and also the ability to share that information with patients and their carer and with other members of their care team," he said.

The implementation team is now turning its attention to Canterbury and Balmain hospitals in 2018.