Media Release

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Brisbane, QLD, Tuesday 3 August 2010

eHealth, e-ssential to Reform

Transforming health records and processes to an eHealth system is the key to a coordinated and seamless health system in Queensland and is pivotal in improving health care for individuals and families, Dr John Kastrissios, General Practice Queensland (GPQ) Board Director said.

“Utilising electronic medical records and having electronic access to hospital discharge notices can fundamentally change the pace at which health services can be delivered, an aspect that should not be underestimated,” he said.

“Good health care is provided through timely and responsive processes and infrastructure, and often time is not on a patient’s side. For health professionals, eHealth is essential to overcoming the fragmented and complex health system we are confronted with today.

By working in partnership with its member divisions and general practice, GPQ has been involved in a number of key eHealth initiatives such as:

- the iHealth Care Directory - GPQ has developed a comprehensive directory of health providers and services with 90% of GPs and over 5000 health professionals now listed. This means that health providers in Queensland now have easy access to up-to-date information about health services throughout the state.

- Secure Messaging – For the past two years, GPQ has provided free secure messaging software to health providers in Queensland, which has transformed the way many health professionals now communicate with each other. Results, referrals and other important patient information are now being exchanged between health providers instantly via this secure electronic method.

- Queensland Health’s Discharge Summary Project which sends discharge summaries electronically to GPs. This results in the GPs having immediate access to important medical information about their patient, so important for effective patient care.

- GP Census: a new electronic survey that is conducted annually which results in more accurate information about the GP workforce in Queensland.
“By providing a modern eHealth system of health care, general practitioners, allied health professionals and hospital administrators are able to co-ordinate and communicate more effectively and as a result, deliver a more seamless health care system for patients.

“The general practice network is perfectly placed, with its track record, to assist general practice meet the demands of an eHealth future.

“Funding now needs to be provided to enable the network to implement eHealth systems and processes throughout primary health care, and linking into the hospital system.

“GPQ looks forward to pursuing an eHealth system that helps build a better health system for Queenslanders and their families,” Dr John Kastrissios, General Practice Queensland former Board Chair said.

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General Practice Queensland provides strategic leadership, advocacy and representation for its member divisions and general practice.

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