

ARGUS 'BUDDY PRACTICE' INITIATIVE

ArgusConnect is pleased to announce the launch of the *Argus 'Buddy Practice' Initiative* to be run over the next seven months.

What is the Purpose?

The purpose of the *Argus 'Buddy Practice' Initiative* is to increase the benefit that GP practices get from Argus by having more Specialists and Allied Health practitioners enabled to send reports to them via Argus.

What are the Benefits?

GP Practices receiving reports: With more Specialists and Allied Health practices in your area able to electronically deliver reports to your practice, this will reduce administrative costs associated with paper and faxed documents, such as printing, handling, scanning, filing, storage and retrieval.

GP practices sending electronic referrals: With the next version of Argus you will be able to send digitally signed referrals to Specialists and Allied Health practitioners, saving time and administrative overheads such as printing, handling and postage costs.

Specialists and Allied Health Practices: Will also benefit from reduced administrative costs associated with sending and receiving clinical documents.

Quicker information turnaround, accuracy and access for health practitioners should also expedite clinical transfer and treatment outcomes for patients.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible to participate in this initiative, a GP practice must:

- have Argus installed (or have registered to have Argus installed); and
- be located in a GP Division/Network that is participating in the *Argus Affinity* program.

When will it be implemented?

The *Argus 'Buddy Practice' Initiative* will be progressively implemented on a State by State basis:

- starting with Victoria – during November & December 2008
- continuing with other States – during the first half of 2009

How will it be implemented?

At the start of a State's *Argus 'Buddy Practice' Initiative* implementation, ArgusConnect will contact:

- *Argus Affinity* Divisions/Networks in that State and provide them with guidelines and promotional materials.
- All eligible GP practices and provide them with materials and advice on how to nominate a Specialist or Allied Health 'buddy practice'.

What is the *Argus 'Buddy Practice' Initiative*?

Each eligible GP Practice can nominate one Specialist or Allied Health 'buddy practice' to receive:

- Free remote installation of Argus by ArgusConnect staff; and
- 3 months of free Priority Support for the nominated Specialist or Allied Health 'buddy practice'.

The Specialist or Allied Health 'buddy practice' should be one with which the GP practice already has a high level of clinical communication (e.g. referrals and reports).

This will ensure that both practices obtain quick benefits from migrating their clinical communications from fax or post to secure electronic messaging.

The GP practice must get the agreement of the 'buddy practice' before nominating them.

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