

Capital & Coast replaces records system

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Capital and Coast District Health Board will spend \$4.3 million replacing its patient records system as part of a move to introduce electronic health records for Wellington patients.

Electronic health records would hold a summary of a person's health history that could be accessed by all health workers.

The DHB plans to integrate its major systems so a patient's complete health history can be accessed by authorised parties through a portal by July.

Information technology business improvement manager Tony Randle says the health board has bought a clinical records system from Auckland software firm Orion Health, and will integrate it with its patient management system, which is used to manage a patient's movements through the health system.

Its previous Allegra clinical record software is no longer supported, he says.

The health board also plans to build a new datacentre with virtualised servers and a second datacentre to house back-up systems and services by July, at an expected cost of \$2.9 million.

The existing datacentre at the hospital's Newtown site is at maximum capacity, Mr Randle says.

"This is a constraint on the implementation of further IT clinical system improvements."

The board has drawn fire for failing to properly manage its IT systems.

In July last year, chief executive Ken Whelan said problems with a computer system meant it may have missed out on millions of dollars in patient revenue.

The DHB says it has since invested in its IT infrastructure, including a \$940,000 upgrade of its Citrix thin-client operating system, which allows applications to be delivered onsite and remotely.

Health Ministry reports found system problems at the health board meant some patient discharge summaries were not produced or sent between 2006 and 2008.

The system errors have since been corrected and processes put in place to help prevent further problems, the DHB says.