

Electronic medical management outperforms paper system in cost and patient safety

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A recent study into the cost-effectiveness of using an electronic medication management system (eMMs) has shown that monetary savings from reduced adverse drug events can offset the cost of implementing the system, making it more cost effective when compared with paper-based prescribing.

Research led by Professor Johanna Westbrook of the Australian Institute for Health Innovation at Macquarie University, and clinical and IT staff from St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, found that the implementation of CSC's MedChart system could provide savings of about \$100,000 a year in a 30-bed ward.

"Before now, several studies had shown that health information technologies help to reduce [medication errors](#), particularly prescribing errors among hospital patients. This is the first Australian study to look into the cost savings of these reductions," said Westbrook.

The study showed that following the eMMs introduction, the rate of potential [adverse drug events](#) (ADEs) in one cardiology ward in a major teaching hospital, fell from 17 per 100 patient admissions to 5; a reduction of 71%. The estimated reduction in ADEs post eMMS was approximately 80 actual ADEs per year.

More information: "Cost-effectiveness analysis of a hospital electronic medication management system." [DOI: 10.1093/jamia/ocu014](#)

Provided by Macquarie University

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