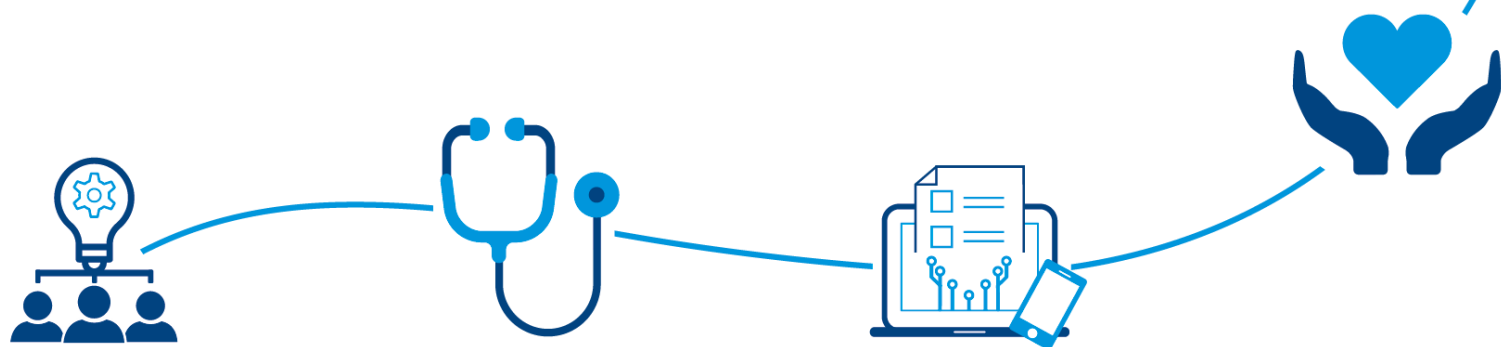# GP IT Scotland Newsletter
June 2021

Since we updated you last October, the great news is that our first supplier, Cegedim (who offer the Vision product), has now delivered all of the functionality for their new system and is expected to complete final accreditation and sign off in August. This means they will be in a position to deploy their new system into practices from late summer.

Robert Hutton, our Implementation Manager, explains this further below – and later, we also give you an insight into what our Testing team has been doing to get the first system ready, as well as an update on our suppliers.

In this edition:

- **Project Update – Robert Hutton**
- **Test team spotlight – Sajid Yasin, Test Manager, tells us more about what the team has been doing**
- **Supplier progress updates**
- **Farewell to Louise McTaggart**
- **Docman Replacement Progress**
- **Next steps – our updated Communications Strategy**
- **Useful Links / contact us**

Project Update – from our Implementation Manager, Robert Hutton

"With Cegedim being ready to deploy into practices from late summer, the project team has been busy making the required behind-the-scenes preparation, including final testing and accreditation of the Vision product.

"The updated system has many new and improved features, and you'll find some of these detailed in the supplier update later on in this newsletter. Cegedim will continue to develop further functionality and expect to deliver the second phase, known as "Tranche 2", next year.

"We appreciate that delivering so many requirements has meant a long wait for staff in GP practices, but now that the first system is almost here, we've been working to raise awareness with key stakeholders, updating NHSScotland Chief Executives, Primary Care Leads, eHealth Leads, Facilitator Leads and engaging with local eHealth teams in each health board. The aim is to support each board in their activity to work with practices to form cohorts who, as a group, will define local requirements and select their new GP IT system. While Mini Competition is only possible once two or more suppliers become available, it is possible for interested cohorts

to select the first system available by Direct Award. The process is similar, and still involves careful evaluation of the supplier's offering, with a system demonstration, to ensure that the system meets the needs of all members of the cohort."
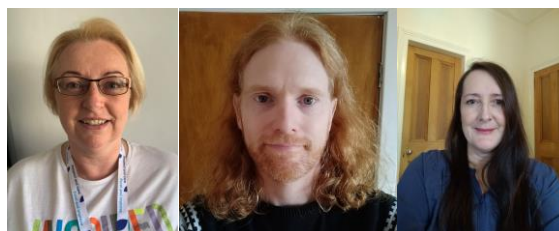
A spotlight on the GP IT Re-provisioning Testing team

To get a new GP IT system ready for deployment is no easy task. Our Testing team, led by Test Manager Sajid Yasin (left), has been working on testing Cegedim's software since 2019. And it's not just the testing team who play an important part – it involves many other experts, including Clinical Advisors, health board Facilitators, Practice Managers and Pharmacy Leads, as well as members of the project team.

Sajid explains why testing is so important: "The testing process that each supplier has to go through is essential, as it ensures the solution delivered by the supplier meets the Scottish Specification of Requirements (SoR).

"My Test team is made up of six people; myself (the Test Manager) and five Test Analysts (clockwise from top left: Abid Hussain, Andrew Boyle, Pam Sheridan, Jon Shaw, Morag McCarthy). The team has built up a really good knowledge of supplier systems and delivers a high level of testing. Each Analyst works on a number of requirements, covering different areas of the GP IT supplier's new system – the supplier provides these requirements to us as code, in a series of code deliveries. This process adheres to industry development standards, test processes and governance. It also sets clear expectations for the suppliers, who must engage with the project team on a regular basis throughout each of the test phases, which are:

Witness - prior to receiving any actual code, our Witness Test Phase entry criteria states that we must have evidence of the suppliers Test cases, Test evidence and Test Completion Report, ahead of the code deliveries.

Assurance - during this phase, the Test team will create their own test cases per requirement. These test cases are then Quality Assured (QA'd) by our Clinical Leads to ensure the expected outcomes of the requirements are present. User Stories are also created by our Clinical Leads to provide additional details for the requirement.

Accreditation - this final phase will ensure all requirements that have undergone a development change are deployed together, merging all of the code and with no outstanding defects. The Test team will accredit each requirement accordingly. This means we can be sure that the new systems will offer robust, user-friendly functionality once they are ready.

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Supplier progress updates

The new features that will be available in the new GP IT systems have been split into two delivery stages, referred to as "Tranche 1" and "Tranche 2"- key features include:

Tranche 1
EXAMPLE NEW FEATURES

✓ Improved Drug Formulary creation and sharing

✓ PRN 'As needed' prescribing

✓ Appointments search and reports

✓ Support for Non-medical prescribers

✓ Instalment prescribing

✓ Calculation of treatment days for Controlled Drugs

✓ Spell Checker/Medical Dictionary

Tranche 2
EXAMPLE NEW FEATURES

✓ Advanced appointment functionality

✓ Call/Recall

✓ Support Practice cluster working

✓ High profile/risk patient flags

✓ Patient context button to launch SCCRS and SCI Diabetes applications

✓ Searches and Reports improvements

✓ Additional prescribing features

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cegedim

With all of the go-live functionality now delivered for the first phase, known as "Tranche 1", and the final defects resolved through the test process (explained earlier in the newsletter), this is an exciting time for the project and for Cegedim, who have worked hard throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to get to this point. This new version of Vision contains 112 new or enhanced features, with a further 73 enhancements to follow next year.

Cegedim's new services will be centrally hosted in dual datacentres. New equipment for Scotland is now being commissioned and tested in these datacentres, and will provide a highly secure, robust and resilient service to NSS, with full disaster recovery capability. This means that all practices and health boards can be confident that their services will be uninterrupted in the event of a datacentre going offline.

Cegedim are also keen to engage with prospective customers to highlight the benefits and functionality available, and are now engaging with boards to arrange sessions.

We'll bring you an update on the progress made in our next newsletter later this summer.

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Supplier progress updates

emis health

We continue to work with EMIS who are moving forward with their delivery plans. Despite being challenged by some COVID-19 related activity they remain committed to delivering their system for Summer 2022. EMIS will be delivering all of the new Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 functionality at the same time.

eva HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Eva has recently communicated that, due to immediate strategic priorities relating to the COVID vaccination rollout, there will be a delay in delivering full functionality in Scotland. Current estimates are that delivery will not be before 2023 but this timeline will be monitored continuously in case things change.

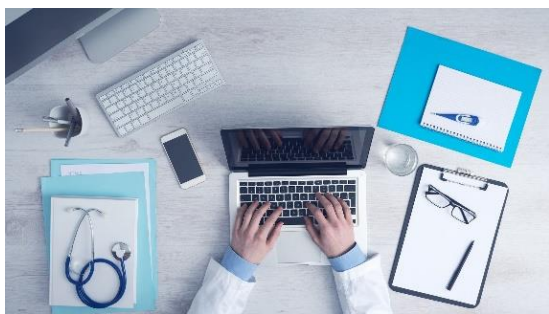Further updates will be included in future newsletters.

A fond farewell to…Louise McTaggart, our National Deployment Manager

This month, we say goodbye to Louise McTaggart, who left us at the end of May. Louise joined the project as the National Deployment Manager 18 months ago and, since then, played a central role in the project's progress, through some challenging times.

Louise offered invaluable knowledge and support, not only to the project team, but to our suppliers and key stakeholders, and will be greatly missed.

The good news is that Louise is staying within NHSScotland, taking up the role of Head of Digital Strategic Delivery at NHS Tayside from 1 June. Our loss is definitely their gain and we wish Louise all the very best for the future, and thank her for all of her hard work.

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Docman replacement progress

Docman 7 provides essential document management and workflow functionality for GPs, however it is an aging product not well suited to centrally host GP IT systems, and it has been recognised that it will be important to find a more modern and efficient replacement. The planning for this piece of work has been included in the GP IT Re-provisioning project.

Since then, there has been a lot of investigation into the various options and best approach. An Outline Business Case (OBC) has now been completed, which includes recommendations for procurement of a replacement solution. This OBC has been sent to several senior groups for review, including Scottish Government and the GP IT Service Management Board.

If the approach recommended in the OBC is approved, the next steps involve forming a procurement specification which describes NHSScotland's unique requirements - such as support for GP2GP transfers, followed by engaging in a procurement exercise.

Next steps

As a project team, we are vendor neutral, however an important part of the project's remit is to ensure that the new managed services are successfully rolled out, and to support the uptake of the first system, once available.

Although there is only one supplier available initially, the first cohorts will have an opportunity to be at the front of the queue for deployment. As more cohorts enter the process next year, the queue for deployment will lengthen and boards may need to mutually agree a rollout prioritisation. The entire rollout period, from first to last practice, is expected to last more than three years.

An updated communications strategy has recently been agreed with Scottish Government and our Senior Marketing and Communications Officer, Fiona Cowie (pictured) explained some of the planned activity, saying:

"With each of the suppliers delivering their system at different times and Cegedim close to accreditation, it was necessary to update our communications approach accordingly. All NHSScotland boards require a project team and governance structure to help co-ordinate the formation of cohorts of GP practices to progress the GP IT selection and rollout process. It was timely to reach out to the boards to get an insight into what stage each is at - this includes communicating with the board Chief Executives, to ask them to confirm that this project is flagged as a priority, and that the required resources are, or will be, in place.

Continued on next page…

Next steps continued…

"We'll be continuing with our newsletters and other regular communications, including the GP IT website (SWAN facing only). However, understanding more about the progress with preparation in each board will also allow us to help support with a more targeted approach – for example, providing additional support and guidance for those cohorts considering moving forward with migration to a new system in the near future."

Website - useful Links

You will find all the latest news and updates at: http://www.gpit.scot.nhs.uk/news-events/

Our FAQs can be found at https://www.gpit.scot.nhs.uk/faqs/

New videos

We've also recently updated our cohort formation and system selection video and uploaded it to the website, along with a new video that highlights some of the things you'll need to know ahead of migrating to a new system.

(Please be aware that, due to the sensitive nature of some of the information, this website is accessible to Scottish NHS network users only.)

Recent Meetings

The GP IT Re-provisioning team held two sessions at the recent SNUG (Scottish National Users Group) Members Day Conference on 26 May. The two sessions focused on:

- A behind-the-scenes look at the project – with a focus on the testing and accreditation process, what features to expect in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2, and a look at what the migration journey will involve, and what practices need to plan for

- System selection and deployment preparation – this focused on the cohort formation and system selection process and a high-level look at the timelines for deploying a new system into a practice(s)

For more information regarding SNUG, you can visit their website.

Upcoming Meetings

National Facilitator Leads – 12 August

Contact us

If there is something you would like to ask the project team, please email: nss.GPITRe-Provisioning-Scotland@nhs.scot.

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