Overview

As electronic clinical documentation is implemented within the Inpatient setting, it is recognised that clinicians quickly become reliant on the eMR as the primary source for accessing patient progress notes and related information.

There will however be situations where it is not possible to complete documentation electronically. This would include system downtimes (both planned and unplanned), power outages or when a hospital has implemented a disaster plan.

The eMR Program was asked to look at a way of indicating in a patient record that a downtime had occurred, and to alert the clinician that when reviewing electronic clinical documentation the paper documentation may also exist.

An automated downtime note entry solution has now been developed by the eHealth team. This solution allows the LHD to identify a target group of patients, and to automate a clinical note in each patient chart.

The clinical note entry will be generated via an Explorer Menu script. It is recommended that this script only be accessible to eMR team members that are authorised to create this communication. The information to be included in the note will be entered at the time the script is run.

The Clinical Note will then appear in the Patient documentation in the timeline that the outage occurred, and alert the reviewing clinician that paper entries may exist.

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