

The demand for Medicines Information & Drug Clinical Decision Support for Paramedic & Ambulance Services



Good patient care requires access to good information. MIMS medicines information and drug clinical decision support is a fundamental resource of the Electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR) of the ambulance systems in all Australian states and territories as well as the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A number of different ePCRs are deployed by the ambulance services across Australia. Common to all of them is their inclusion of MIMS, which not only provides information and advice on medicines used by paramedics, but also helps to ensure the accuracy and quality of medications data capture into the patient record. Prior to the wide deployment of ePCRs in the field, there was the risk that clinical information was hurriedly written and further errors often occurred when handwritten notes were later transcribed into an electronic system. These errors have been dramatically reduced by deploying systems to paramedics on tough industrial grade computer tablets that allow direct data capture of vital signs, observations and medications given.

MIMS pill and tablet images and the “Pill ID (identification)” application allow paramedics to identify medications that may be found with a patient on their arrival. The MIMS Pill ID is particularly useful for helping identify substances when responding to drug overdose cases.

Another benefit of the rapid adoption of medicines data collection in ambulance ePCRs is the value the information now provides to research and clinical guideline development. A research project conducted by one ambulance service has enabled evidenced-based clinical improvement to be realised through an extensive review of drug contraindications and allergies observed and documented by their paramedics.

MIMS has a long involvement with the ePCR systems used by ambulance services in each state and most recently has partnered with Nautilus Health and Canada’s Medusa Medical Technologies to integrate our medicines knowledge into a solution for the Northern Territory Ambulance Service. The St John’s Northern Territory Ambulance “Siren ePCR” allows the service to provide high quality pre-hospital clinical emergency services, while also having the benefit of streamlining operational processes and the mandatory reporting requirements with the NT’s department of Health.