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## Press Release 26 May, 2008

**No Embargo**

# Local Technology Firm iClinix launch ground breaking patient task management tool in NSW. THOMM™

NSW Health, John Hunter Hospital, is leading a quiet revolution in improving patient safety through local clinical software initiatives. Very quickly and with minimal expense, the Renal Dialysis and Renal Transplant units have worked together with a local firm iClinix, to develop state of the art patient management software system. In 2005 the **Transnet™** Renal Patient Management system was launched, allowing the unit to stop using the old paper records system and switch over to the 21<sup>st</sup> century internet based clinical system called Transnet™.

Transnet was the product of collaboration between the Renal & Transplant Units Senior Medical Staff and the Founders of iClinix, Mr. Andrew James (Managing Director) and Gerard Chanekon (CTO) and Hunter New England Health (NSW Health). The application links every aspect of the patients' medical history, their surgery, medications, problems, pathology and radiology, as well as progress notes and referrals amongst the vast array of other information created and stored during the long term treatment of renal patients.

Transnet now incorporates exciting new advances, the foundations of which were developed by the Smart Internet CRC and its University of New South Wales (UNSW) based research team.

Deputy Director of the Newcastle Transplant Unit and leading Transplant Physician and Nephrologist, Dr Paul Trevillian said *"like many complex chronic diseases being managed by NSW Hospitals and Health Professionals; Renal and Transplant patients are a highly complex group, and they are usually under specialist care for a long time while undergoing dialysis, transplantation, and even multiple transplantation"*.

Trevillian states that *"after trying numerous other vendors, iClinix stepped up to the mark and completely understood from day one, how to translate doctor and nurse workflow and decision making into a real time clinical software system that simplified the whole data entry and retrieval process for our doctors and nurses. The Transnet system is the envy of other departments waiting for the state based patient administration systems to be delivered, and even then they won't get exactly what they need."*

Professor Adrian Hibberd, the Director of Transplantation Services in the Hunter New England region is very blunt *"iClinix has delivered in two years what the big overseas based companies said would take five (5) years. Now, five (5) years on, we have been using Transnet for 3 years and still no sign of the much promised overseas solutions being available by the multi national companies. We picked the right technology and the right company."* Hibberd went on to say that *"after two years, it became very obvious that we had created an environment of improved safety and productivity as well as enhanced outcomes. Doctors and nurses were spending more time on managing patients and less time on data management. We had also drastically reduced paper file use and all in all we were in a position to focus on other areas of improving safety and outcomes. Clinical hand over was the next challenge and iClinix was the obvious partner."*



According to Sumeet Kumar of The NSW Government's Department of State and Regional Development The NSW Government funds at least 15 major health based research institutions in NSW and Nationally. One of those groups is The Smart Internet Technology CRC. The SIT CRC and iClinix partnership is an example of how specialist well funded research institutions can engage local innovative companies to commercialize the product of original research and development. This important initiative has been supported by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development. The CRC worked with iClinix as an innovative SME based in NSW to tackle the very important issue of "clinical hand over".

The CEO of Smart Internet Technology CRC, Warren Bradey says "We are excited that the CRC, through its UNSW based research team has developed novel research outcomes and partnered with an agile SME, iClinix, to deliver a new smart service providing clear benefits to patients and the medical profession "

Working in the front line of kidney disease, Dr Al Gillies, Director of Nephrology Medicine at Hunter New England Health has seen first hand the dangers that come about when medical staff change shifts and the management of seriously ill patients get transferred ("hand over") to the weekend Medical Team. This is a time when there is heightened risk of mistakes occurring, despite the highest levels of training and professionalism. Gillies says "*the iClinix **THOMM**<sup>™</sup> (Clinical Hand Over Tool) application is a powerful tool because of its simplicity and ability to list, prioritize, and assign very important tasks to the next shift. In fact, the traffic light colour coding and mobility of the tool is a major improvement in both safety and administration for us. The innovative use of ward and bed maps in the software as well as colour coding for priority tasks and patients makes THOMM a versatile and easy to use tool. The fact that THOMM is very low cost and fully customisable means that hospitals around the state can rapidly enhance safety outcomes without the big dollars associated with other systems*".

The Managing Director of iClinix, Andrew James, said that "*THOMM<sup>™</sup> is a perfect fit with the Transnet system, but can work in any hospital ward where hand over of complex patients occurs*". James also says, "*All that is needed is the customisation of ward maps and importation of specific information like pathology, problem lists, patient demographic data, and some minimal local configuration. Once customized and configured, the clinical units have access to a powerful tool to manage the hand over of patients. The fact that we work with groups like Intel Health and Microsoft architecture means that there is a very low risk for hospital IT departments as they are very familiar with these technologies and we are backed by some of the worlds best technologies*".

James has complemented the NSW Government and Smart Internet Technology CRC on providing resources to Healthcare Technology Innovation and encourages the NSW Health Department to fund and resource the Innovation Arm of their Health ICT Strategy. It seems that one arm of Government is fostering innovation, but the service arm, the Department of Health is not geared up to adopt such innovative products. James says that "*interoperability, HL7 messaging and standardized health IT protocols, and enterprise wide architecture; means that local Australian vendors can provide very low cost and low risk solutions to improve health outcomes, patient safety and reduce costs within NSW Public Hospitals. The one thing missing from the innovation arm of the NSW Department of Health ICT Strategy is funding and resources for Area Health Services to work on these grounds breaking initiatives - like the implementation of THOMM and Transnet.*"

THOMM is being officially launched at the NSW Department of State and Regional Development Offices in the MLC center on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The CRC, iClinix and Intel, who are co sponsors of this event, welcome any interested parties to contact iClinix via [www.iclinix.com](http://www.iclinix.com) for more information.

Senior members of NSW Health, DSRD, Premiers Department and Industry will be present at the launch.

#### **The Problem**

The Renal Transplant & Nephrology unit at Hunter New England Health wanted to enhance their use of Transnet point of care system by adding a portable IT based tool that would assist with managing the transfer of tasks and patients during change of shifts. Most NSW hospitals still use paper notes.

#### **The Process**

Having had overwhelming success with medical software designer firm, iClinix and their Transnet system, the unit readily offered iClinix their unit to test and pilot the THOMM hand over tool.



**The Result**

iClinix built THOMM as a module of Transnet that synchronizes with the THOMM mobile application. Partnering with Smart Internet Technology CRC and Intel Health, several Intel based chip mobile clinical systems underwent trials with THOMM. The doctors at John Hunter Hospital found both the Samsung Q1 and the Motion Works C5 as being very capable, fast and reliable to use as mobile clinical assistance. The availability of THOMM on the go and by the bed made a major improvement to doctor work flow and had significant time savings. THOMM works ideally on a Motion Works Mobile Clinical System. The C5 & F5 has a solid reputation as a reliable and robust portable clinical device and has inbuilt wireless and the F% has 3G broadband, meaning doctors might never be out of wireless range in their hospital environment and can access THOMM and Transnet anywhere.

**About iClinix:**

*Based in Sydney – with clients around Australia and provided services and technology overseas  
Managing Director Andrew James – is Deputy Chairman of the Australian Information Industry Association NSW  
iClinix - Chairs the AiiA Health IT Special Interest Group  
Committee Member Of Standards Australia IT014 Health IT standards development  
Products in Cancer, Renal, Pharmacy, General Medical - Out of the Box, Customized or Custom Builds.  
Enterprise wide, Web based, SQL server, NET Framework architecture.*

**About Smart Internet Technology CRC:**

Based in Sydney with research facilities across the eastern seaboard  
Undertakes R&D in the development of new ways to deliver services and product to the services sector generally, particularly the health sector.  
Draws on specific research expertise from UNSW, USyd, University of Wollongong, QUT, RMIT and University of Swinburne.

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