

# TAKING BYTES OF ALLIED HEALTH

## AIM:

To demonstrate the need for an Allied Health Services Informatics focussed role – which directly contributes to and provides advocacy for the use of AH data and eHealth developments.

## METHOD:

Experiential Case study based on author's role and development of the Allied Health Informatics field in NZ.

## RESULTS:

The necessity to embrace Health Informatics within Allied Health has become increasingly apparent. The key factors driving this have been identified as a need for;

- Standardisation
- Access and Visibility
- Evidential Value

Currently the NZ Ministry of Health collects data on Allied Health professions coding them all as **A01**. This grouping of the professions together creates an invisible workforce. Subsequently our staff who provide essential and life changing intervention cannot demonstrate their value.

Every NZ District Health Board captures information about their services differently; using different methodology; for different numbers of Allied Health professions; in different services; with variable detail of workflow data and activity. Subsequently comparison and benchmarking is not viable.

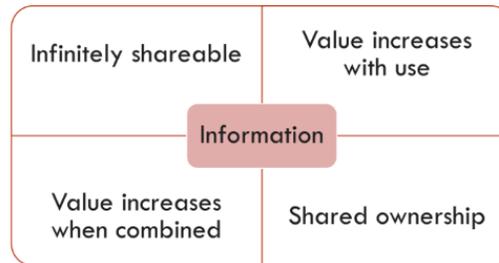
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## The Necessity of Using Informatics to Advance

*We need to be making the most of the information we have, and developing availability of the information we need.*

Over the last 3 years there has been an increase in the number of roles focussing on AH Informatics developed across NZ.



Adapted from: Vogel, L (2003). Finding value from IT investments: Exploring elusive ROI in Healthcare. Journal of Healthcare Information Management; Vol 17, No 4

## DISCUSSION:

Common challenges to integrating knowledge into clinical practice;

- Clinical validity of information
- Standardisation requirements
- Workflow change



The Benefits of Clinicians in an Informatics Role;

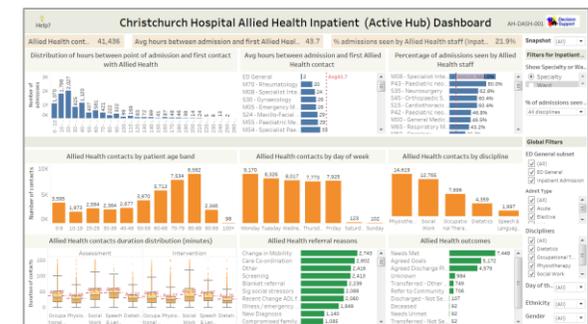
- Clinical Credibility
- Understanding clinical processes in depth
- Understanding technology in a broad way
- Able to interpret from either perspective
- Supports change management process

## A Clinical Informatician bridges these barriers

COMPETENCIES	BARRIERS
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracting and merging data</li> <li>• Building the technical system</li> <li>• Maintaining systems operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clinical expertise</li> <li>• Different culture</li> <li>• Opaque workflow visibility</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding clinical workflow</li> <li>• Using clinical data effectively</li> <li>• Providing feedback to improve system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rarely technical experts</li> <li>• Time constrained</li> <li>• Lack of engagement</li> </ul>

Adapted from; Critical Disruptions – The Five Forces Shaping Health Care's Future. The Advisory Board Company, 2015.

## Allied Health Dashboard



## CONCLUSION:

This role is driven by the needs identified; standardisation, access and visibility, and evidential value. The outcome measure for the role - to provide evidence to the value of Allied Health practice.

A focused AH Informatics role brings coordination to the data collection locally, contribution to eHealth developments locally and nationally, and is critical to the engagement of staff for data collection, analysis and application.

