

RSSA: CareConnect Closure

We wrote to you on [29th April](#) about CareConnect and the Health Information Exchange.

Yesterday, we received formal [notification](#) that the funding for CareConnect from the major hospital groups and medical schemes has been withdrawn. CareConnect and the Health Information Exchange will be closed down.

The justification for the closure is the ongoing cost and the slow uptake.

This is an ill-considered and shortsighted decision, as the interconnectivity of the private sector is critical to its survival and integration with the State healthcare system. Information silos based on individual schemes, administrators or hospital groups are an incomplete solution and will do nothing to advance the sector as a whole. We had hoped that CareConnect and the HIE would lay the foundations for a private-sector Electronic Health Record.

Ideally, there should be a single radiology database in the private sector to reduce costs, improve efficiency and demonstrate that private radiology can form part of an integrated healthcare delivery system while maintaining the independence of our private radiology practices.

The RSSA Exco and management team will examine alternative ways to achieve this. We will keep you updated.

Richard Tuft
Executive Director

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