

## **IMS MAXIMS forms e-prescribing partnership with Better by Marand**

**Two companies committed to open source software will work together to offer NHS trusts an integrated electronic patient record and e-prescribing option, to improve patient safety**

IMS MAXIMS has formed a partnership with Better by Marand to become a reseller for its open e-prescribing system, OPENeP.

The move gives NHS trusts that want to progress their digital maturity the option to buy an e-prescribing system that integrates seamlessly with the openMAXIMS software suite.

The model has already been successfully adopted by Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, a global digital exemplar, which uses openMAXIMS and is due to go live with OPENeP this summer.

Leesa Ewing, the commercial director at IMS MAXIMS, said: "E-prescribing is recognised as one of the key components of an electronic patient record. In the past, we have been happy to work with any system that our customers have wanted to use to achieve this; and we will maintain the valued relationships that we have with suppliers so we can continue to do this in the future.

"However, the partnership with Marand will enable us to integrate our EPR with OPENeP, and to create a seamless experience for clinicians. That should give trusts additional confidence that they will achieve the well-documented benefits of e-prescribing, which include fewer medication errors and, critically, improved patient safety."

Both IMS MAXIMS and Marand are committed to releasing their software to the NHS as open source, and to using open architecture and open standards so their systems can interoperate with others.

This is in line with the refresh of NHS digital policy instituted with health and social care secretary Matt Hancock, who has repeatedly emphasised the need for systems that can "talk to each other."

The NHS is also being encouraged to accelerate the roll-out of e-prescribing, for which the government set-aside a pot of £75 million in 2018. Thirteen trusts have received funding to date, and 48 bids are being considered for a second wave of funding, according to a recent Parliamentary answer.

OPENeP by Better product manager Roko Malkoč said: "It is our common goal with IMS MAXIMS to improve outcomes for patients. We both work closely with the medical staff to make sure that we have identified the problems to be solved and prevent unnecessary errors.

"It is our belief that this synergy will help us build the best possible products to improve patient safety and start a new collaboration engine among the medical staff."

IMS MAXIMS already has a partnership in place with JAC, which will continue as OPENeP does not have its specialist pharmacy stock-control capabilities. Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust will use JAC software to run its pharmacy when it goes live with its new e-prescribing system.

ENDS

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**About Better by Marand**

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