



Health minister Tony Ryall describes e-prescribing as "really quite remarkable". He is pictured here with MyPractice chief executive Ashwin Patel

Project team gives e-prescribing demo

Delegates including health minister Tony Ryall, got to see firsthand the national e-prescribing initiative at last month's RNZCGP conference.

MyPractice chief executive and GP Ashwin Patel keyed in a prescription for a fictitious patient.

The script information is then stored in a secure location by IT company Simpl.

"The only thing that can be read at this point is an identifying barcode that gets allocated to the script," HealthSoft programmer Greg Pryde explained to delegates. The system is completely secure so there are no privacy issues, Mr Pryde added.

Pharmacists are then able to scan the barcode, which sends a request from the pharmacy

to Simpl to access the script.

When the script is received, a message is again sent to Simpl showing the script has been opened.

Mr Ryall described the initiative as "really quite remarkable".

The Government-led e-prescribing initiative is currently being piloted in 65 general practices.

It has so far involved the software vendors MyPractice and HealthSoft, which produces the dispensary management application, Lots.

The major players, Medtech and Toniq, are not involved in the publicly funded project, but rather are working on a similar project of their own (*Pharmacy Today*, August). **RN**