

Straw poll (2017)

Methodology

In May 2017, we hosted a meeting which brought together National Committees from PBA, Occupational Health, Sports, Women's and Men's Health, Acupuncture and Dry Needling, Neuro, Aquatic, Pain, Rural and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy.

In essence, this was a straw poll.¹

We asked participants to write down the answer to the following question:

How long will it be, given the advances such as My Health Record, before your current health record system is no longer fit for purpose?

We asked participants to rank (from 1-4, with one being the highest) the following concerns about the change-over that will follow their health record system no longer being fit for purpose:

- The new software will cost too much
- I won't be able to transfer patient data from the old system to the new system
- It won't integrate with my accounting system
- I don't know which new system to choose

Results

Thirty-four (34) members provided answers.

Respondents' answers about how long their current health record would be fit for purpose ranged from 0 years (now) to 10 years or more. On average, members thought that it would be four (4) years before their current health record system was no longer fit for purpose.

The mean level of concern (lower numbers mean more concern) about these issues was:

- I won't be able to transfer patient data from the old system to the new system (1.8)
- I don't know which new system to choose (2.4)
- The new software will cost too much (2.7)
- It won't integrate with my accounting system (2.9)

¹ A straw poll is a small, informal opinion survey. It is used to show the popular opinion on a certain matter. Straw polls provide dialogue among movements within large groups. Impromptu straw polls often are taken to see if there is enough support for an idea to devote more time to it.