

Houston Medical turns 21 !!!

In August this year Houston Medical turned 21. In 1988 Jane Bond, physiotherapist in Inglewood was the first customer in New Zealand to install Houston Medical Physiotherapy. It is with considerable delight to know that 21 years later both Houston Medical and the Inglewood Physiotherapy are still thriving and Houston Medical continues to be by far the largest supplier of software for physiotherapy and allied health in New Zealand.

From that very small start with one programmer, thanks Joseph, one salesman, me and Alan Chew who provided the original vision and the money! Then moving on to 1992 our first software installs were made in Australia in practices in Toronto, Bundaberg and Perth and again I'm delighted to advise that those first three are still Houston users today, although of course, many versions later.

This year has been an equally momentous one for Houston Medical. As will be covered in more detail in subsequent sections, staff numbers continue to grow and after at least ten programming years of development at a cost running into the millions, Houston Medical VIP.net has been installed in Hamilton, Auckland, Lautoka, Suva, Townsville, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. With over 300,000 lines of new code and users now exceeding 200 that works out at 1,500 lines per user! And to cap off the year, just last week we received our Notice of Integration from Medicare Australia advising that VIP.net has passed all tests for HIC, Easy Claim and DVA Paperless.

For General Practice in New Zealand we are now integrated with Dunedin Medical School's Best Practice and I am told that this service will also be provided free of charge to our General Practice clients across the Tasman so suggest you ask and we will find out.

To better see the breakthrough features in VIP.net I urge you to have a look at our ever increasing videos on this website and then return as they continue to be increased and updated.

As time is precious in this last week before Christmas the following sections provide more detail for each specialty so if

you do have the opportunity in the New Year, spend some time browsing!

For physiotherapy where it all began. Houston continues to lead from the front but also respecting the rising competition is determined to stay one step ahead. Houston the largest supplier of software for Physiotherapy in New Zealand is also the largest supplier of information to the ACC. With the major changes in ACC funding for Physiotherapy we have been in almost weekly contact and have now entered into contracts with the ACC to make sure the new requirements for reporting and billing are in place within the timelines required. Support staff are trying to get even closer to leading practices and continue to increase our extensive library of user-defined forms which are available free of charge and can be used by all clients on the gold version.

In Ophthalmology As the largest supplier of specialised ophthalmology practice management software in New Zealand and Australia Houston VIP.net has had major success securing contracts for retinal diabetic screening with the Counties Manukau DHB, Canterbury DHB and the Fred Hollows Foundation for Fiji. [CLICK TO SEE THE ARTICLE ABOUT RETINAL SCREENING IN FIJI](#) The Lions Eye Institute in Perth is going completely paperless with Houston VIP.net in January 2010. This will be our largest install to date with 70 concurrent users connecting three remote practices. At the recent RANZCO conference in Brisbane Houston VIP.net featured in the Zeiss presentation as being the first software, possibly in the world and certainly in this part of the world, to interface with the new Zeiss Forum software. VIP 2000 has not been overlooked and the cataract audit is now available to all clients on the latest version. [CHECK OUT THE CATARACT AUDIT ARTICLE HERE](#)

Orthopaedics. This is a relatively new area for Houston Medical although we did have a small exposure some years back. As can be seen by the accompanying press release from Motion Computing Houston Medical is honoured to have provided the software for Professors George and Deedee Murrell in their quite amazing new practice in Kogarah, Sydney. The press release does not describe it adequately but [READ IT HERE](#) or [WATCH THIS VIDEO](#) showing off the practice. The attention to detail in converting this old 1920s church into a dermatology and orthopaedic consulting practice is amazing. I could not leave this section without paying a particular complement to Dr Neville Strick of Hamilton. Like George, Neville approached me over a year ago and wanted to work with an innovative software company that was not afraid to spend money, push the boundaries. I believe we have achieved those goals and 2010 will be a very special year for our clients and Houston Medical.

Other Specialties. With the growth in day surgeries throughout Australia, and we believe shortly in New Zealand, in the middle of last year we decided to also completely rewrite our day surgery package as a fully integrated part of VIP.net. This can work as a standalone package or as a fully integrated solution as will be installed by day surgeries in Perth and Brisbane early in the New Year. We have tried to approach the complexities of the health fund contracts head on! As much as possible rules are applied automatically and entries are validated continuously to try and afford those time-consuming mistakes. As well as general practice, physiotherapy, ophthalmology and orthopaedics Houston is now fully involved and has referenced sites for general and bariatric surgery, cardiology, endoscopy, physiotherapy and sports medicine. Over 2010 we intend to continuously improve our web to allow a more interactive experience.