

# Electronic Patient Records in Fiji

## a student-led initiative to introduce digitalised healthcare to the Pacific Islands

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### Abstract:

The Fiji Islands, like many island nations in the Pacific, face many challenges with modernising their health care system. Disjointed population, unreliable resources, extreme weather events and unique health challenges all contribute to increasing expenses of nations already struggling to maintain their health system (1, 2).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified 6 key building blocks foundational to the development of the health systems of the Pacific: Service delivery; information; medical products and technologies; health workforce; financing and leadership and governance (stewardship) (3). Electronic patient management systems are capable of improving the efficiency of the health system, while also improving the quality of care delivered to the population (3-5), addressing many of the WHO building blocks directly and indirectly.

An electronic prescription and patient management program, Tamanu, has been developed by Beyond Essential specifically for use in the Pacific Islands. In collaboration with the Pacific Medical Students' Association, Tamanu will be trialled in Lautoka, Fiji, a catchment area of ~50,000, in two small clinics, Kamkamica and Namaka health centres, before a larger trial in Lautoka Hospital. After the trial period, clinicians will be interviewed on their user experience with the software. In addition, data will be collected to ascertain effects on prescription accuracy, efficiency of the clinic and used to demonstrate how demographic data may be implemented to improve quality of service.

This trial will become the model for a national rollout of the software package and form the cornerstone of electronic patient management in Fiji and the Pacific, more broadly.

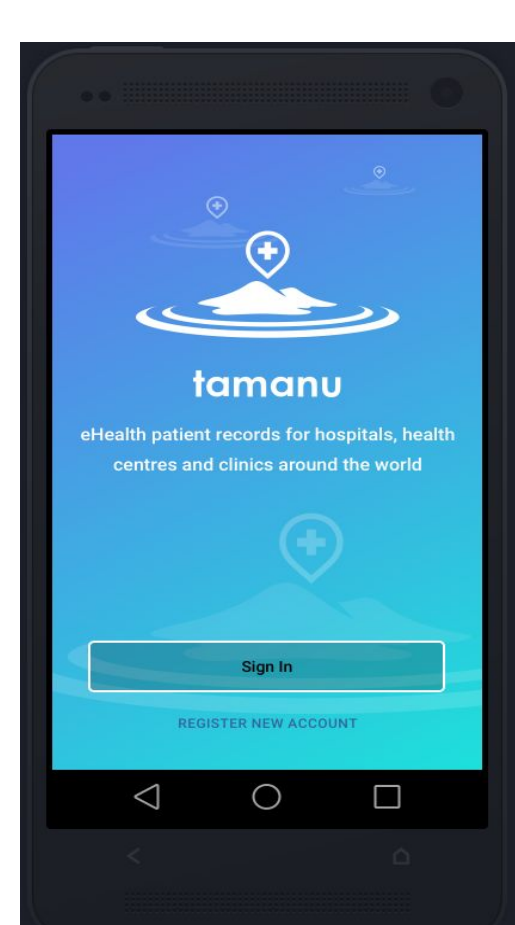
### Tamanu:

Electronic Patient Records improve the quality of health care provided by facilities that use them in the following ways:

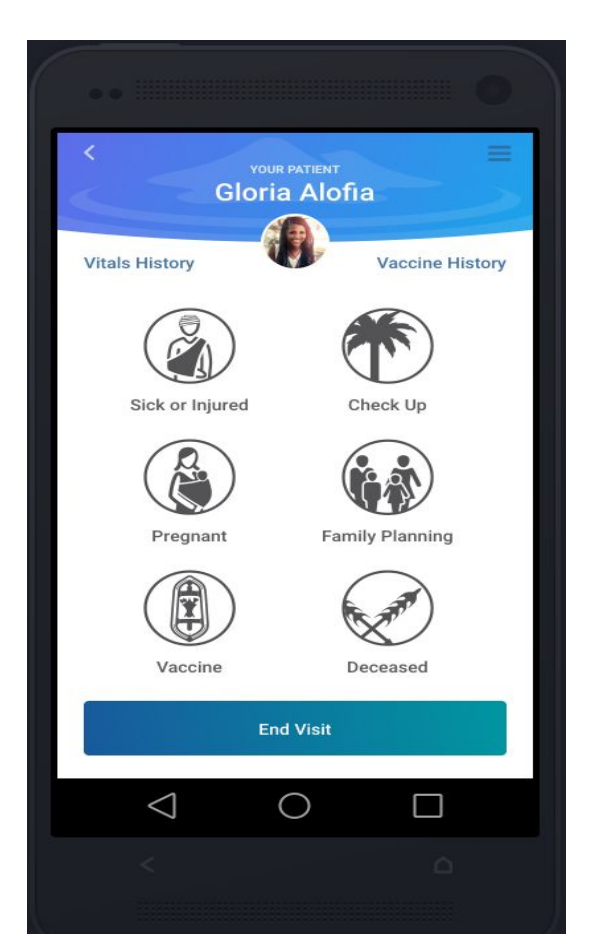
- Improves physician care by providing up to date therapeutic guidelines
- Promotes patient care continuity
- Improves clinic efficiency
- Provides data on disease to direct care
- Increases capacity of health stewardship
- Improves patient safety by reducing prescription errors
- Provides data on demographics to improve patient care



#### Secure system



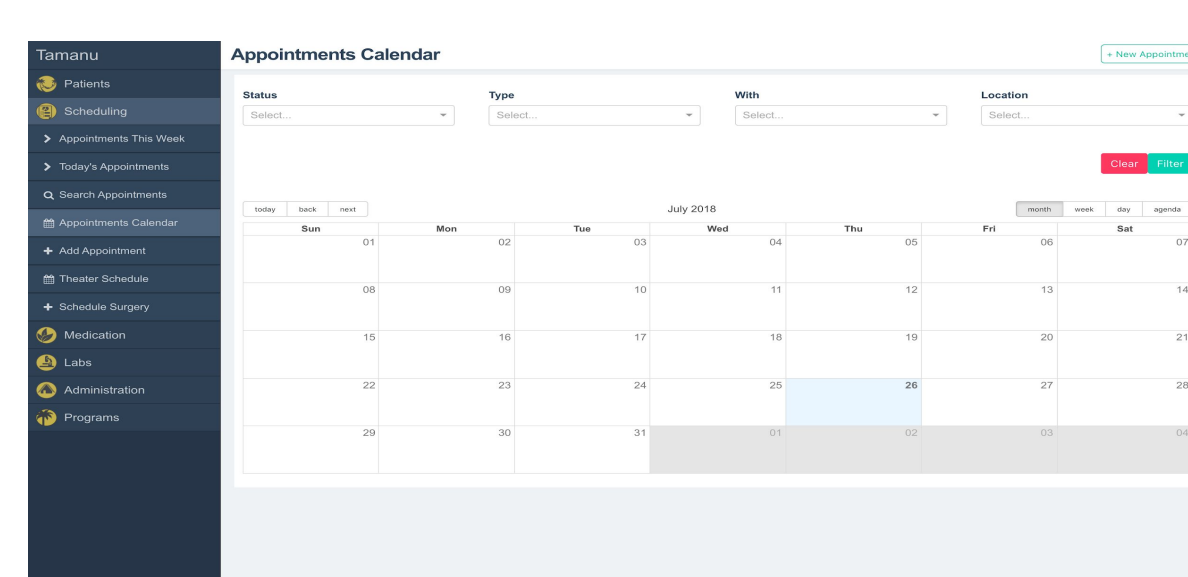
#### Stripped-back tablet and mobile-friendly app



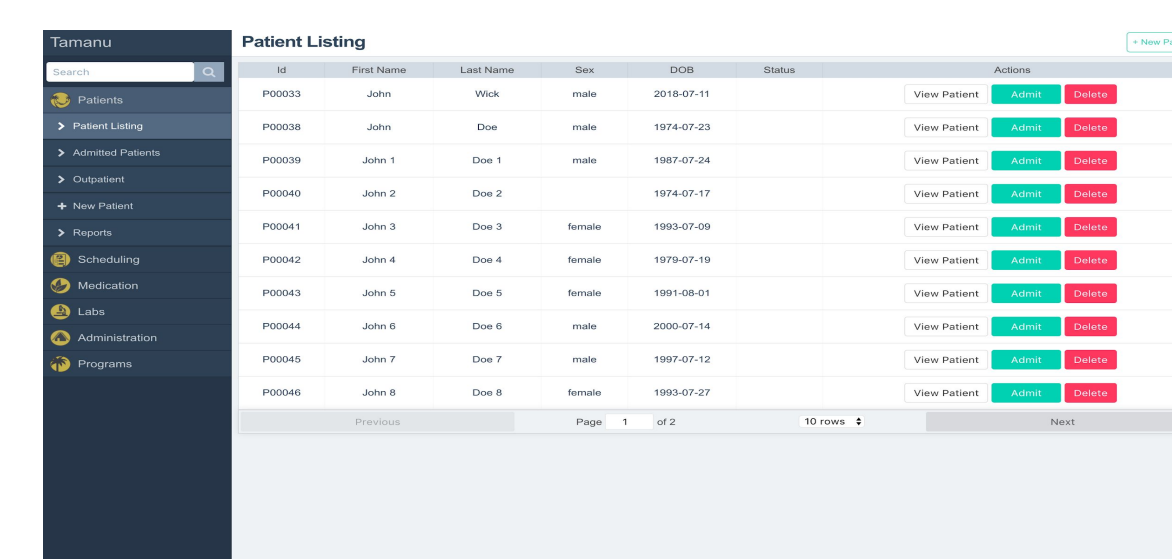
#### Locally and nationally hosted health records



#### Patient flow and appointment management



#### Complete medical record storage



#### Electronic prescription complete with Fijian Therapeutic Guidelines



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With thanks to:



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