

HSPnet Overview & Benefits

Updated: March 31, 2011

Background

The Health Sciences Placement Network, or HSPnet, was launched April 2003 by the BC Academic Health Council (BCAHC) to provide a web-based system for managing practice education in the health sciences across BC. Now used in several Canadian provinces, HSPnet provides a database and tools to support the following practice education goals:



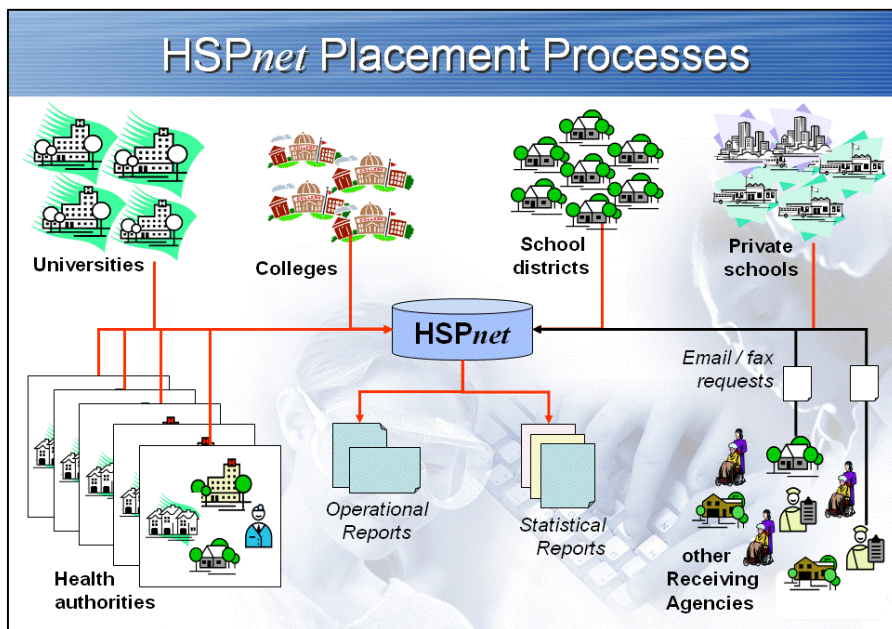
- **Increased availability and quality** of practice education opportunities for students
- **Streamlined processes and improved communications** among those involved in practice education
- **Enhanced access** to a greater range of placement opportunities including underutilized sites, rural communities, and interprofessional experiences
- **Monitoring and improvement** of learner and agency outcomes
- **Enhanced profile and priority** of practice education

HSPnet is funded through user contributions within each province and cost sharing across the provinces through the National HSPnet Alliance, established by the BCAHC in 2004. The Alliance shares costs for the centrally-managed infrastructure and ensures that HSPnet is accessible and affordable for all educational programs and receiving agencies.

HSPnet management committees in each province review local issues and practices, and contribute to identifying and prioritizing common enhancement needs. The National Alliance Steering Committee oversees national policies, directs ongoing expansion of the system, and pursues funding and other strategic opportunities of benefit to the provinces and to national interests in health workforce planning and development.

Agencies Using HSPnet

Today there are more than 3,000 HSPnet users in Canada, representing over 700 educational programs and 11,000 receiving destinations. The system also tracks placements involving schools or sites not yet using the system, resulting in a total database of more than 2,300 educational programs and 26,000 placement destinations. Twenty disciplines are now active in one or more provinces, representing nursing, rehabilitation sciences, pharmacy, medicine, paramedics, diagnostics, social work, and others.



Over 175,000 placement requests have been managed through HSPnet to date, providing a rich dataset to address needs such as:

- building placement capacity;
- understanding acceptance/decline rates and reasons;
- developing interprofessional opportunities; and
- studying placement activity levels and trends.

HSPnet user surveys confirm high levels of satisfaction from benefits that include reduced duplication, streamlined communications, and enhanced information sharing.

Benefits of HSP_{net}

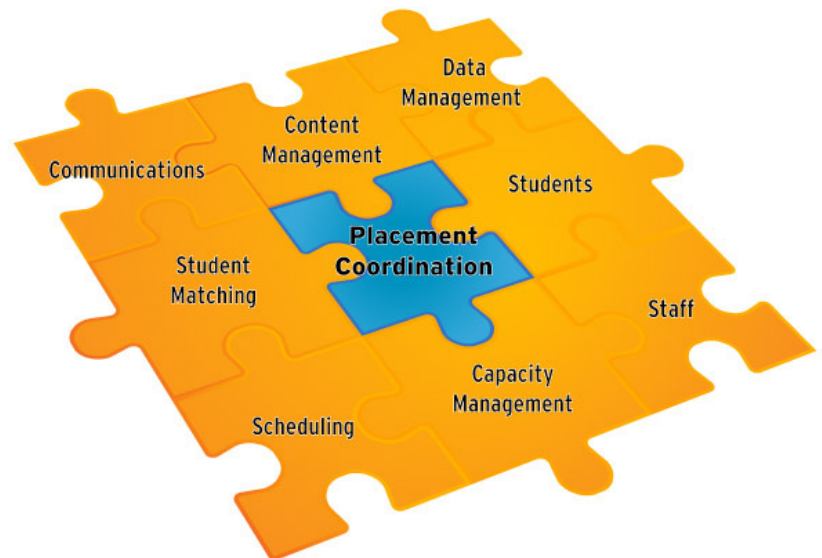
The benefits of HSP_{net} adoption include:

- **Improved communication and information exchange** among schools and receiving agencies, throughout the placement process;
- **Reduced handling of paper** through access to electronic requests and Calls for Offer, online course and student profiles, and up-to-date information about destinations that accept students;
- **Improved turnaround on placement requests** through instant communications, reminders, and automated alerts on requests awaiting action;
- **Reporting and productivity tools** to produce confirmation and recognition letters, student and instructor schedules, profile summaries and activity reports;
- **Enhanced planning and capacity building** through access to comprehensive data on placement activities and trends, student volumes and placement needs, acceptance/decline rates, etc.
- **Improved risk management** through tools to publish requirements, track status and compliance with requirements, and monitor outstanding prerequisites.

Integrated Functionality

HSP_{net} functionality is constantly evolving beyond its core focus of improving placement coordination and communications. The system offers fully integrated functions to support effective practice education management including tools for preceptor recognition, online Orientation, educational policies and contracts, evaluation and quality improvement, student employment, and more.

Enhancements and new modules are funded through the annual budget of the National Alliance. One or more provinces may elect to fund a special enhancement and lead its design and implementation; upon release the new module or feature becomes available to all Alliance members at no cost.



System Requirements and Privacy/Security

The only requirements for using HSP_{net} are an internet-connected PC with Microsoft® Internet Explorer, an email account, and Adobe® Reader (a free download). There is no software to install or maintain, and authorized users can access HSP_{net} from any internet connected computer.

HSP_{net} transactions are encrypted and logged for audit purposes, and multi-level security ensures that only authorized users can view placement information as appropriate for their role within a school or agency.

A formal Privacy Impact Assessment is submitted in each province that uses HSP_{net}. Students sign a consent form prior to their identifiable information being entered into HSP_{net}, and student information is not released to their placement site until their placement is accepted and confirmed.

More Information

For more information about HSP_{net}, visit the website at www.hspscanada.net.