

THE VIRTUAL HOSPITAL- Reimagining care through innovation

Kickstart your focus on telehealth in 2026 with an inspirational and educational **HYBRID WORKSHOP**

Two days of inspiration, collaboration, and practical design shaping the future of virtual healthcare.

Hear from international and local Telehealth and virtual healthcare leaders and help design the Virtual Hospital model of the future, to improve access, equity, and efficiency across our health system through co-design sessions.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Clinicians, innovators, and health leaders building Aotearoa's digital future.

WHY ATTEND

- Learn from global and local telehealth experts
- Explore new, culturally responsive models of virtual care
- Connect with a growing telehealth community

WHEN:

14–15 January 2026

WHERE:

Online & in-person in
Auckland, Wellington
& Christchurch

FORMAT:

Keynote presentations,
panel discussions, and
co-design workshops



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora



Limited places available

Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of telehealth

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

www.telehealth.org.nz/2026



Featured Keynote Speakers



DR JOHN PAWLOVICH

*Clinical Professor & Chair of Rural Health,
University of British Columbia*

Clinical Professor & Chair of Rural Health, University of British Columbia. A global leader in rural and Indigenous telehealth, Dr Pawlovich will share lessons from 25 years of delivering care through hybrid models, AI, and community innovation.



DR JIM MARCIN

Director, UC Davis Center for Health and Technology.

An international authority in pediatric telehealth and critical care, Dr Marcin will share insights from two decades of building connected care networks that improve outcomes for children and families across rural and underserved regions.



DR KENDALL HO

*Director, Digital Emergency Medicine,
University of British Columbia.*

A pioneer in digital emergency medicine and health literacy, Dr Ho will explore how technology and data can safely extend acute and primary care beyond hospital walls while keeping people and communities at the centre of care.

...with additional speakers from Australia and Aotearoa leading digital transformation across clinical, policy, and equity domains.

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VIRTUAL HOSPITAL SYMPOSIUM

Symposium Overview

The Virtual Hospital Symposium is a two-day hybrid event - in person across Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, with online access for a number of sessions, bringing together health leaders to share insights from virtual care initiatives and co-design a model for Aotearoa's future Virtual Hospital.

Day 1

Storytelling & Problem Framing

Hear from international and Australasian experts including Dr John Pawlovich, Dr Jim Marcin, Dr Kendall Ho, Erik McClain, Isabella Smart, and Leisha Davies-Colley. Through stories, panels, and discussion, participants will explore challenges and opportunities shaping the future of virtual health.

Day 2

Breakout & Co-Design Workshops

Participants work in six themed groups - clinical workflows, cultural safety, funding, technology, workforce, and evaluation to design practical solutions and frameworks for implementing virtual hospital models.



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Day 1: Wednesday 14th January

Morning session online and in-person (Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch)

Time (NZDT)	Session	Details
9:00 – 9:15	Mihi whakatau & Welcome	Opening ceremony and overview of symposium goals.
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote – Dr John Pawlovich	“The 21st Century House Call: Virtual Health for Remote Communities.” Insights from 25 years delivering hybrid and Indigenous telehealth across rural Canada.
10:15 – 10:30	Morning Tea	Coffee and networking break.
10:30 – 11:30	International Keynotes	>> Dr Jim Marcin (UC Davis) – Pediatric telehealth and “critical care without walls.” >> Dr Kendall Ho (UBC) – Digital emergency medicine and extending care beyond hospital walls.
11:30 – 12:30	NZ & Australia Panel “Voices from the Front Line”	Five short stories from clinicians pioneering virtual care in diverse settings: >> Erik McClain (Hospital-in-the-Home) >> Isabella Smart (Digital Midwifery) >> Australian expert TBC >> Australian expert TBC >> Leisha Davies-Colley (Allied Telehealth). Interactive discussion to follow.
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch Break	Buffet lunch for in-person delegates and virtual networking rooms online.

Afternoon session in-person only (Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch) - limited places

Time (NZDT)	Session	Details
1:30 – 3:00	Workshop – Defining the Problems	Facilitated co-design session: participants identify the key challenges and opportunities a Virtual Hospital must address.
3:00 – 3:15	Afternoon Tea	Refreshments and short break.
3:15 – 4:00	Report-Back & Synthesis	Each group shares their top problem statements; symposium chair summarises key themes.
4:00 – 4:15	Close of Day 1	Wrap-up and preview of Day 2 co-design.
5:00 – 8:00	Optional social or fireside chat.	Informal online debrief and networking for all participants. Details to be confirmed to participants at each venue.

Participants will finish the day with a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing virtual healthcare – from rural BC to New Zealand’s own communities – ready to turn ideas into prototypes on Day 2.

Day 2: Thursday 15th January

Breakout & Co-Design Workshop (Online only)

Day 2 shifts from storytelling to action. Participants collaborate in themed breakout groups to co-design solutions for the challenges defined on Day 1. The online format enables broad participation from across Aotearoa and overseas, with physical hubs in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch for those meeting in person.

Each group works toward practical frameworks and prototypes—developing the policies, workflows and tools that could shape Aotearoa's Virtual Hospital.

Time (NZDT)	Session	Details
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Recap	Review of Day 1 findings and outline of Day 2 objectives.
10:15 – 11:30	Breakout Session 1	Groups A–F begin brainstorming ideas and defining goals within their themes.
11:30 – 11:45	Mini-Break	Stretch, coffee & bio break.
11:45 – 1:00	Breakout Session 2	Groups refine and shape one or two key proposals for presentation later in the day.

Breakout Groups & Themes

A Clinical Workflows & Virtual Triage – mapping safe, seamless patient journeys.	Ruth Large/Isabella Smart
B Cultural Safety & Community Engagement – designing culturally safe virtual care models.	Doug Healey
C Funding Models & Evidence Base – identifying sustainable approaches and evaluation metrics.	Craig Green/Jess Morgan-French
D Technology & Infrastructure – tools, interoperability and innovation roadmap.	Anna Campbell
E Workforce & Training – defining new roles and skills for virtual care.	Karen Day
F Evaluation Framework & Learning System – creating measures for continuous improvement.	Kendall Ho/Inga Hunter

Time (NZDT)	Session	Details
1:00 – 1:45	Lunch Break & Idea Gallery	Informal sharing of morning insights via online chat or whiteboard.
1:45 – 3:00	Breakout Session 3	Finalise group outputs, prepare presentations and summaries.
3:00 – 3:15	Afternoon Break	Short refresh before final plenary.
3:15 – 3:45	Closing Plenary – Group Presentations	Each team (A–F) presents its prototype or framework; discussion and Q&A.
3:45 – 3:50	Wrap-Up & Next Steps	Summary by Ruth Large; announcement of post-event report and follow-up activities.

Participants will leave with concrete frameworks and prototype ideas for six core areas of the Virtual Hospital model—plus a new community of practice ready to carry this work forward across Aotearoa and beyond.